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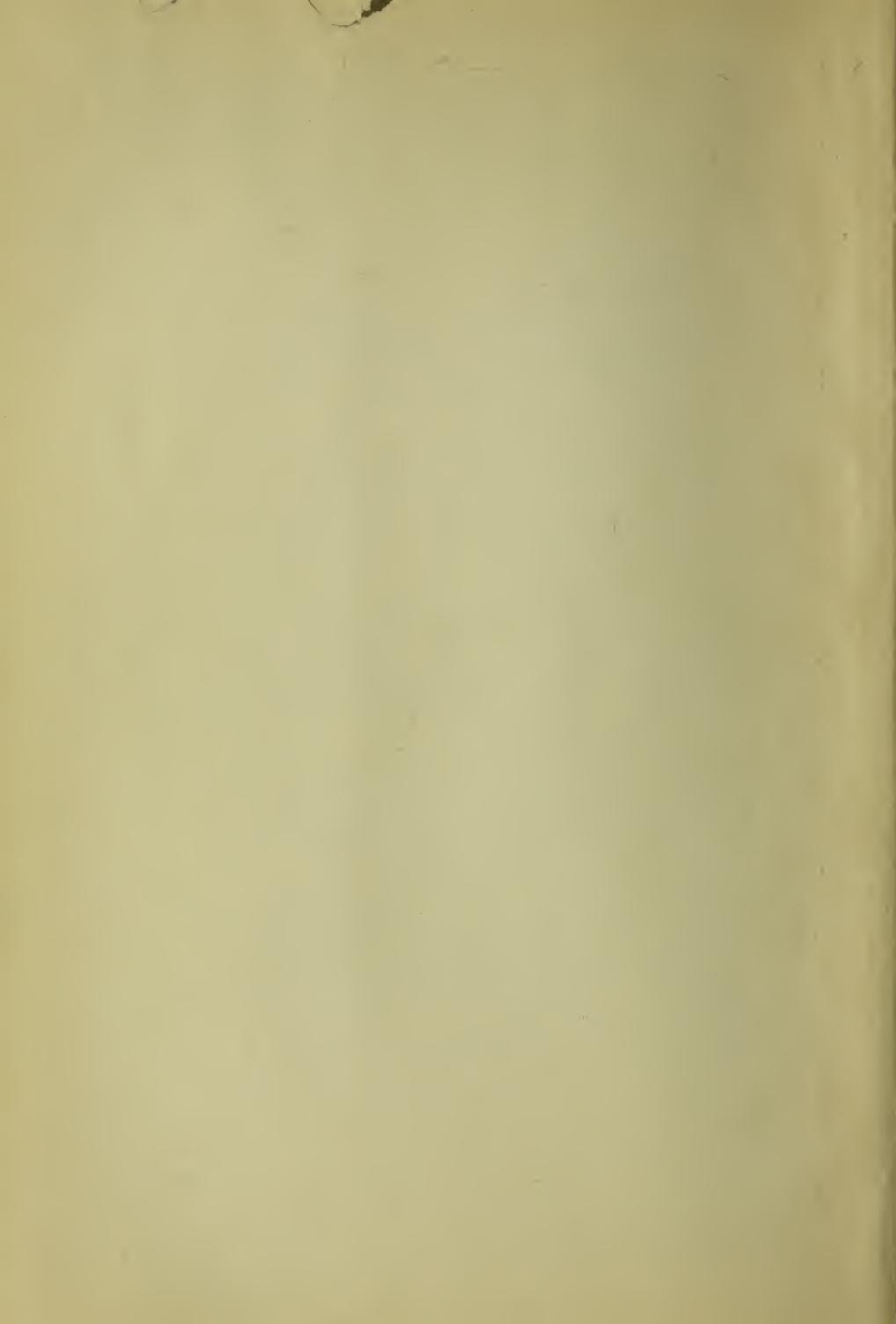
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FEB 22 1917

The Great Adventure

Published weekly by the GOLDEN PRESS, 232 Douglas Building, Los Angeles, California.
Editor, LUKE NORTH. Associate Editors, LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, HERMAN KUEHN,
EDGCUMB PINCHON, THOMAS W. WILLIAMS. By the year 25 cents, copy 1 cent. Entered
in the Postoffice at Los Angeles as second-class mailing matter. Telephone Main 4905.

Vol. 2

OCTOBER 20, 1917

No. 1

To End the Cause of War



THE Great Adventure is to free the land and share the resources of California, then of the Nation, and End the Cause of War!—

Conscript the idle acres and open the earth and its wealth to All, on equal terms—

Stop the confiscation of rent and land values by speculators and land lords—

Open, and keep open, the Source of food, clothing, fuel, shelter; break the monopolies and trusts, cut the ground from under them, prevent the piling up of enormous fortunes—

Abolish Privilege and the Poverty it causes—

Stop industrial warfare and begin a new social order based on consideration for the needs and desires of All—

Release the warmer, finer, higher impulses—

Recast the world to its Heart's Desire!

To open the hearts of men and stir them to Generous Action for the welfare of All the human family—for the weak, the poor, the children, the homeless and destitute, the girls who must sell themselves and boys who must thieve for food and clothes—

Stop all this hate and disorder, the shameful, unnecessary want in a Land of Plenty!

Rid the nation of billionaires, slums, wage slaves, brothels, and prisons—Right Away!

Why hesitate, delay, to practise the oldest, truest teaching in the world, the Golden Rule?

Kindness, fellowship, at the base of life, cannot come too soon.

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It cannot harm a living soul.

It is never too early for the people of a nation to begin to Play Fair among themselves. We will begin Now.

We will end the prussianism and kaiserdom at Home.

Shall we brave less for Freedom of the land than the sea?

Why should the Sea be free—how can it be free—for whom shall it be free—while the Land is in bondage?

We are tenants of Land Monopoly, subjects of its food, fuel, and money trusts. The kaiser's submarines are less deadly.

How shall our troops be provisioned—by taking still more from the People of the little they have left—while the waiting acres, coal beds, oil fields, mines, streams, and forests are Idle?

Open the Earth and there will be food enough for all.

Open the Earth and monopoly prices will fall—there will be supplies in abundance for all the troops of all the Allies, and for all the People, too.

Open the Earth and kaiserism abroad and at home will be killed in a trice—and forever.

Open the Earth and the war will end in a month—and there will be no more war.

Open the Earth and the Cause of War will be over!

Shall we cross the sea to put down a tyrant—and fatten tyranny at home?

War is to gain, to keep, or to break, the Economic dominance of man over man.

Economic dominance begins, rests, and will fall with the end of—Land Monopoly.

The dominance of thought, will, work, and genius are powerless to subject without an economic base. That base is land monopoly. On a Free Earth tyranny will cease. Tyranny is an outgrowth of economic fear. No man is evil at heart. Fear drives us all one way or another—the fear of want.

On a free earth Fear will vanish.

We will Free the earth—Here and Now.

Don't say it can't be done. It is the only thing worth doing that can be done. Two hundred and sixty thousand people in California last year thought it could be done.

Two hundred thousand more, and it will be done!

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PEACE SHOULD NOT COME

Ella Wheeler Wilcox

PEACE should not come along this foul earth way,
Peace should not come until we cleanse the earth.
God waited for us; now in awful wrath
He pours the blood of men out day by day
To purify the high-road for her feet.
Why, what would Peace do, in a world where hearts
Are filled with thoughts like poison-pointed darts?
It were not meet, surely it were not meet
For Peace to come, and with her white robes hide
These industries of death—these guns and swords—
These uniformed, hate-filled, destructive hordes—
These hideous things that are each nation's pride.
So long as men believe in armed might
Let arms be brandished. Let not Peace be sought
Until the race-heart empties out all thought
Of blows and blood, as arguments for Right.
The world has never had enough of war,
Else war were not. Now let the monster stand
Until he slays himself with his own hand;
Though no man knows what he is fighting for.
Then in the place where wicked cannon stood
Let Peace erect her shrine of Brotherhood.

What are all the science and art, the knowledge and the wisdom of the world, its philosophy, its genius, and its wealth—to millions in the trenches, in the slums, prisons, brothels, sweatshops, treadmills—whose daily life is a living hell?

What are all the romance, art, and poetry—to the paupers and prostitutes—made of the same sort of clay as you and me?

What are all the high thinking and warm feeling and fine talk about love and kindness, sympathy and humanity—if we can't practice the most elemental sense of fair play and common decency at the base of social and economic life?

What is all this noise about character and noble deeds and heroism—while the Source of all food, fuel, clothing, and shelter is held by ten per cent of the population and all the rest must slave, scheme, cheat, pinch, beg, whore, or thief for a living?

What is this sound about Democracy—under a system of economic slavery?

Let's change the system, be Men, and play fair.

We can do this simple beautiful righteous thing—just establish with regard to land, the same rule we now have on this coast with regard to water. You can't monopolize the rivers and brooks of California—it's illegal—it's not done. We'll make it illegal to monopolize land.

It can be done—of course it can—if You do your share.

The first thing is to get the Initiative Demand for the One Tax on land values signed up. This must be filed in December—then the issue is safe.

Thirty, forty, thousand names are already signed—we haven't stopped to count them. About a hundred thousand more are needed to make sure—so many mistakes occur.

What are You doing about it?

Are you circulating a petition?

Too busy—then we will have to pay for someone to go out and get Your share—so, you can send the money instead. There isn't a moment to lose. Let's hear from you right away. Everybody signs readily. The "petition" reads:

To secure to every adult the power to own his own home and direct his own life and work; to abolish land monopoly, wage slavery, dis-employment and pauperism, by applying the Golden Rule at the base of life—

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The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Come in and get one, or write to headquarters, 232 Douglas Building, Los Angeles—or telephone, Main 4905.

This is worth your while. You'll be glad that you helped.

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Vol. 2

OCTOBER 27, 1917

No. 2

Life Is No Pacifist



AR is in the nature of things—but man's battlefield is not the bowels of his own kind. War is a natural, beautiful thing which no amount of narrow logic will ever put to sleep—but man's natural battleground is the raw earth and its elements.

But these are locked up, guarded from men—by Privilege! Yet war is the way of things—so men mutilate each other. The human soul is an armed warrior, but the natural battle is the strife of humankind against the blind forces of nature.

Open the land and let man get at his natural foes—fire and flood, heat and cold, death, disease—and the Unknown.

Man is not bellicose and bloody. There is no biologic necessity for modern war.

Man is part of life and life is strifeful—half the time. Night is peace, Day is war. Calm and storm, negative and positive, the inbreath and the outbreak, love and hate. Life is contrast and contest. Life is no pacifist.

But in all this is no excuse for men to destroy each other.

The necessity for modern war is a closed earth—the superstitious awe of paper titles.

Here in California we're going to unlock the earth—open the natural battlefield of men—then in the nation. Then human slaughter will cease.

On a free and open earth no junker class could raise an army to manslaughter the world for a kaiser.

WHAT IS THE GREAT ADVENTURE?

LUKE NORTH, in *Pearson's Magazine* for November 1917.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE demands the earth for the People—the land and its resources of coal, iron, oil, gold, etc., timber, water, everything found naturally in or on the earth; these, and the increment or rental values of land, shall no longer be monopolized by the few, but be held as the wealth of the people. They shall become what naturally and morally they are, what in all fairness, justice, decency, they must soon be, the common heritage of the living and the unborn.

The phrasing is not dogmatic; there is to be no quarrel over words. The demand is for a free earth, not for more laws, formulas, haggling over rights, titles, interests—while human beings suffer for food and shelter in a land of plenty! Tax reforms are useless on an earth held away from the people by landlords, monopolists and speculators. Only such application of the single tax as will immediately reduce land holding to use, is any concern of The Great Adventure.

It began in California as a mass movement, with an initiative demand on the state ballot of 1916 for a constitutional amendment abolishing all taxes save the single tax on land values. The issue went frankly to the people as a means of freeing the land and sharing its resources and increment—of recasting the social base, changing entirely the monopoly land tenure. In November one-third of the total state vote was recorded for it—260,332. It seems morally certain that a much greater affirmative vote was actually cast, for the Anti Single Tax League of railroads, land barons, and bankers, only claimed to have beaten it by 100,000 votes and the invisible government of the state held up final returns on this issue until long after every other issue and all the candidates had received their totals. It is also clear that a large class of voters interested in college, church, or veteran's exemptions were unfairly prejudiced against it by an official error(?) in printing the state pamphlet.

But if the vote were actively and potentially no greater than that recorded, still it was a third of the state electorate—favoring an immediate change of the base of civilization! It

startled not only the plutocracy, but the radical world, and proved the faith of The Great Adventure in the idealism of the crowd. The crowd is ready to play fair in life tomorrow. It is only the politicians, statesmen, academic radicals, who keep it back.

It is a moral certainty that the people of California (and of the United States) will vote overwhelmingly for an honest, frank proposal to abolish land monopoly. Plutocracy knows this and fears nothing so much. Hence it bends every effort to prevent the issue going squarely to the people, and in this it is greatly aided by the timidity of the academic sociologists.

In April of this year The National Great Adventure was organized in Atlantic City at a gathering of over two hundred militant radicals from all over the country. It declared for "Immediate political action to secure at once the primary condition of human freedom: That the land and its resources shall be open to all on equal terms, by taking ground rent for public purposes, thru the single tax on land values." This "creed" is not announced in a dogmatic or doctrinaire sense, nor as a panacea for social ills. It indicates merely the "primary condition," the first thing to be done, the first thing that can be done at once because it is the one thing upon which all militant radicals are agreed—it is the base of immediate Action.

The National Great Adventure elected William J. Wallace, of Newark, N. J., as president; Luke North of Los Angeles, vice-president; Charles H. Ingersoll, New York, treasurer; James H. Dix, Philadelphia, secretary; Robert D. Towne, Scranton, Pa., chairman finance committee; James A. Robinson, Philadelphia, organizer. Three committeemen from every state, most of whom have been named, will be the national committee of the organization whose membership will include all who subscribe to its brief and elastic constitution and pay its annual dues of one dollar.

Definite demands for a free earth are being prosecuted in Pennsylvania, New York, Rhode Island, Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, Texas, Oregon—but the big fight is in the Golden State with its 260,332 electors pledged for the abolition of land monopoly. California is the keynote of the great hope—the vulnerable heel of Achilles Plutocratus. Its new campaign began

when the polls closed on the 7th of last November, and now the state rings with the new slogan "Conscript the Idle Acres!"

Thirty-five thousand electors have already signed its new initiative demand, which reads:

To secure to every adult the power to own his own home and direct his own life and work; to abolish land monopoly, wage slavery, disemployment and pauperism, by applying the Golden Rule at the base of life—

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There is every reasonable hope that this amendment will be carried at the election in November, 1918, for the campaign behind it is positive, virile, unceasing. It is not proposed, however, that the mere enactment of these words will automatically open the earth. It was not the XIVth amendment that ended chattel slavery, but the awakened conscience of the people.

The Great Adventure relies upon an awakened public, intelligently guided by a united radicalism, to do a specific thing, in a definite way, on a particular date—a possible fundamental thing, upon which all who care and dare are already agreed—and does not fear consequences. Its appeal is to the warmer, generous, expansive, manlier impulses. These it would arouse to spontaneous action, assured that whatever ensue would be nothing so evil as comes every day from the envy, hate and deceit bred by the land monopoly tenure of earth.

Statement of Ownership, Management, etc., as required by Act of August 24th, 1912:
Name of Publication, *THE GREAT ADVENTURE*. Issued weekly. Published and owned by
Golden Press (J. H. Griffes, mgr.; Herman Kuehn, bus. mgr.). Not incorporated. Editor
and manager, Luke North, Bus. mgr., Herman Kuehn, of Los Angeles. Mortgages,
bondholders, etc., none. (*Signed*) Herman Kuehn. Sworn to September 24, 1917, before
Chaim Shapiro, *notary public*, whose commission expires February 6, 1918.

New address: 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles.

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vol. 2

NOVEMBER 1, 1917

No. 3

TO ABOLISH LAND MONOPOLY

By Lona Ingham Robinson



FEW months ago the following stirring appeal to the titled folk of England was issued by the Countess of Warwick, "owner" of 23,000 acres:

We must go. The aristocracy of England in its position of hereditary landowners, must go. The country rings with suggestions for the betterment of the conditions under which land is cultivated, but as I see things, the suggestions are in no instance drastic enough. The only cure for the present evils seems to me to be state ownership, the abolition of private property on the earth that was given to all of us. For the betterment of social conditions in England a supreme sacrifice required. It is no more than justice that the men who have offered their lives in this war for Britain should have the freedom of Britain for their lives in this war for Britain should have the freedom of Britain for aves it in the hands of a fraction of those who fought. To me it is impossible that in the future "His Grace" or "My Lord" should own square miles of the mother earth for which Tom died, and Dick was sore wounded and Harry fought unscathed.

The country has great needs; if it is to remain solvent, the united work of one and all is necessary. The old feudal landlord will be an anachronism, the new money-spun landlord an abomination. Only the state can own the land in trust for those who can make it productive. We who are in the high places in England should retire from them in the real alo of renunciation.

In one of her more recent utterances the countess says:

We must elevate the care for humanity to the highest place in our parts; it must be our new religion. . . . Peace has its massacres no

less complete than war; and to most of these massacres, whether by drink, disease, poverty or vice, the established church has been merely a spectator, if the term can be applied to that which has eyes but sees not, ears but hears not, a mouth in which most words are platitudinous.

"We must elevate the care for humanity to the highest place in our hearts; it must be our new religion." That from the first has been the attitude of The Great Adventure. We have been crying aloud these two years about the massacres of peace. Investigation leads to the conclusion that the annual casualties caused by poverty alone would equal the number annually sacrificed in the present war, only they are not so spectacular. The appalling mortality of infants owing to the heat in summer, the cold in winter and the prohibitive price of milk all the time; these as well as their under-fed and over-worked parents dying before their time make no cry. The killed and maimed by preventable accidents and the poisoned by foul conditions of employment, the deaths from fire-traps frequently recorded, these victims are likewise silent. The vice that overtakes neglected children whose mothers must go out to work, the crimes that follow, the suicides from sheer despair of living—to mention but a fraction of the inglorious massacres of peace, all these the new religion must abolish.

Never was campaign more timely than this to open up the lands, urban, agricultural, and mineral, for use in California. For now this terrible pressure of war upon us; the dire need for utmost production of food and coal and iron and oil, the deadly check of landlordism on the opportunities to produce all these things becomes obvious; though, like the Established church in England, the powers that be have eyes but see not.

At a most conservative estimate, no less than twenty million acres—of the best pickings—are held out of use by great landed proprietors in California, and probably as much more in smaller tracts, besides the vacant lots in cities.

Los Angeles has 45,000 unused lots. Meantime those who come with no capital but their two hands, will, by their labor, enhance the value of these idle lands and so incur, at the same time the punishment of higher prices or rents for themselves.

One is sometimes asked, "Will the single tax on land values alone suffice for the usual or present expense of communities?

This question can be answered by authentic figures: The assessed valuation of Los Angeles at 50 percent is \$491,573,663. Double that for its real value equals \$983,147,326. Call it \$1,000,000,000. Its annual rental value at 5 percent of this capitalized value, will be \$50,000,000—caused solely by the presence and labor of the people, collectively. Hence it belongs to the city.

The estimated budget for the current year (to be obtained at the City Hall) is \$9,449,360. This “guess” is based on the expenses of former years.

Now will \$50,000,000 annual income be sufficient to satisfy a present budget of \$9,449,360?

The plutocratic Los Angeles Times recently emitted the following scintillation:

Possibly no greater boon could be conferred upon the human race than some system which could abolish poverty. . . . The multitude of those who possess nothing . . . those who have made economic failures of their lives . . . those human waifs you will see at certain corners of Los Angeles circulating petitions to abolish all taxation in California save on land. . . . They are the only ones to whom this bold proposal to abolish poverty appeals. They cling to the superstition that poverty can be abolished by law.

Well, since the “multitudes” enumerated are about 75 per cent of the people, they are not so very “only.”

It is typical of those who would do their utmost to make human waifs and economic failures out of their fellow men, to turn and scorn them afterward. But if they are so “only” and so contemptible why would the abolishment of poverty be so great a “boon conferred upon the human race”?

If it is hopeless to “cling to the superstition that poverty can be abolished by law” should we seek this great boon then outside the law? i. e. lawlessly? The I. W. W.’s are said to be trying that way. “The Times” does not seem to like that way either. Then how? Plainly we’re damned if we do it by law and damned if we don’t.

But open opposition like this is easily answered. It’s very source queers it. It is the sinuous, the covert, the masked opposition that catches the unwary—the camouflage of plutocracy, as samples of which there are:

The grave and dignified Tax Reform League fathered by the

banks and vested interests; the new legislative statute, the California State Land System, offering to "set the poor to work on land" thru homeopathic doses of state socialism, a 36 year installment plan—same old interest, same old mortgages, same old land speculation. Then there is the Equity Tax League having an amendment painted up to resemble a real single tax bill with teeth. But this has no teeth. They are all more or less clever imitations of what the people really want, a way to get on to the land. They are to lure people away from the real thing, The Great Adventure Single Tax amendment, the same bill, practically, which got 260,332 votes last November. "Beware of Imitations."

Every other activity is now in abeyance while we get names on our petitions.

Only two months to get a hundred thousand names. We did more than that last year. Then it was a case of have to. It is so now, unless we want to throw away all the names we now have. The latest day for filing with the County clerks is December 31st. After January 1, we would have to begin all over again. We simply Must get them all in this year.

Send to headquarters immediately for petitions and get all the names you can—and then some. Or, send in the money to hire collectors. The proposed amendment reads:

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N. B. The new address is 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles—pleasanter and roomier quarters. Drop in.

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Feb 22 1918

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Vol. 2

DECEMBER 1, 1917

No. 4

FATHER McGLYNN by Edwin Markham



HIS POEM was written for the eightieth birthday anniversary (September 27th, 1917) of the REV. FATHER EDWARD McGLYNN, the great preacher of Social Justice.

I never heard your voice, great Priest,
Yet felt afar the might of it;
I knew your face was toward the East:
I felt the morning light of it.

Your love of Justice was a flame
That lit your world with gleam of her:
You fought for Justice in the Name,
Where laggards only dream of her.

To love and lift was all your creed:
Child-bold you went the way of it;
You crammed your doctrine into deed,
To bring the golden day of it.

Priest of the People, you were one
With all who feel the pain of earth,
With all who strive below the sun
For something more than gain of earth.

You left the world a better place
Because you trod the road of it:
God showed to you his Father Face,
Because you bore the load of it.

Hero, you saw the truth and dared
In that immortal hour of you:
Because you held no good unshared,
The world still feels the power of you.

You took the part of trampled men,
And so you took the part of God:
Your great love served the world, and then
Death drew you to the heart of God.

EDWIN MARKHAM, Californian of the days when Ambrose Bierce wrote Prattle in the San Francisco Examiner and Joaquin Miller kept watch on The Heights and Charlotte Perkins Stetson (later Gilman) kept open house in Oakland for all those

stricken from their birth
With curse
Of destinative verse

has achieved a poem on Father McGlynn that will endear himself eternally to The Great Adventurers and inspire them with new hope and zeal for their joyful work as Harvest Hands.

With true poetic instinct Markham has caught and finely sounded the keynote of McGlynn's character, that of moving to the immediate practise of social justice once the manner of it was clear to him—"Where laggards only dream of her"—"You crammed your doctrine into deed"! That was the heart of McGlynn, untainted by the mechanical thought of his time, stronger then than now. He believed in truth and in man, and tho' of intellectual attainment and power was "child-bold."

Had there been another to take his place and continue vigorously the Anti Poverty Crusade, single tax would have been accomplished ere this. But with his ceasing, control of single tax inactivities fell to the spirit of phariseism which says: "The people are not ready for social justice. Of course I am ready, but I am so different from the crowd. Of course, I am moved by high ideals and humane impulses, but the crowd is led only by petty interests and the pocketbook appeal."

McGlynn believed that other people could feel about the matter as he did. You had only to go out and tell them about a Free Earth and the abolition of poverty—they would rally. He was right. They did rally—until the long arm of Rome stretched across the sea—and there was no one else it seems for many long years with faith in man and in truth.

But now the cycle of Action returns. Where McGlynn stood alone thirty years ago hundreds now stand

"TO BRING THE GOLDEN DAY OF IT"

At some time, in some place, urged by some particular individuals, the high emprise of men like Henry George, Edward McGlynn, Ernest Crosby, Tom Johnson, must bear fruit, must ripen

into definite concrete Action for immediate attainment—or even this couplet of Markham's were untrue:

You left the world a better place
Because you trod the road of it.

The world is no better place if the number of starving children and prostituted girls keep on increasing, or if it is only decreased by the staged (but not greater) suffering of a world war. The world will be no better place until its economic horrors are ended—until the natural opportunities are opened to all. Let none beguile himself now with an easy platitude.

It is the world's harvest time, the hour to reap the efforts of Progress and Poverty and of the Anti Poverty crusade. Long ago the seed was sown. The tree is matured. We are only the garners of its fruit. We are the harvest hands. If we fail to reap the fault will be ours. If we fail and the tragedies of land monopoly go on the world will be no better place for our effort. McGlynn was a pioneer, a sower. We are but havesters—or shirkers: something of both, no doubt. None of us does all he could do. We love too much the easy things of life, fear too much its difficulties, and—dear God!—how we hug our little bags of gold, forgetful that shrouds are made without pockets. Even in life, what will it buy—for self?—

Buy Love, buy faith, buy snow-white truth?
Buy moonlight, sunlight, present, past?
Buy but one brimful cup of youth
That true souls drink of to the last?
O God! how poor a man may be
With nothing in this world but gold!

JOAQUIN MILLER.

The whole age has made its God of gold, and leans upon and trusts it—with scarcely a heretic to burn. "It will buy us economic safety," we say—blind to the obvious and indubitable fact of nature that only such safety is none at all, that we are members of a family not one of which can divorce himself from the destiny of the whole: that's not metaphor, but Fact!

And we who have no gold, but ever seek it—what wonders we would do if we only had it! All our faith is in the world's God. There never was a Godless age, or a Godless man—but I would rather bow to the Sun than to Money.

We feed ourselves on metaphors and abstractions when our half-hearted energies bring no tangible results.

"No effort is lost," we say—which is only a philosophic guess—or what of it, while the tragedies of pauperism increase? Is single tax to conserve cosmic energy? We might let nature attend to that. Our task is to abolish land monopoly—

Damn your art and poetry, while a million children starve!
Your theories and abstractions, while a million women whore
For bread and ribbons—in a land of wondrous plenty!
Damn your higher life and soul expansion, your culture
German French or English—that strut on human degradation
And leave the millions to the guns and courts and prisons
And mercy of the Few!

We know the Cause of christendom's agonies and bitterness, its deceits, detectives, mortgages, prisons, and manslaughters.

At last—a few of us at least—stand starkly for Human Values and are not to be scared by the withholding of the rich man's purse or cajoled with bourgeois platitudes. The earth is closed to the human family. All its treasures of economic security, from which alone a Real Culture can proceed, are preempted by the Few. On such an earth, culture is a mockery, and poetry that does not inspire to Immediate Action for an Open Earth is but a soporific to our smugness and servility.

Singletaxers who care only to keep on sowing seed are helping to reap the whirlwind of syndicalism. This is not seed time. It is harvest time. Who will join in the reaping, Here in California where the seed was first sown, and where there is now the First and Only Tangible Hope—a reasonable expectation—of Immediately harvesting the ripened fruit, of enacting the full single tax principle into the state constitution!

Has single tax a heart? Does it Care? Is it willing to risk—to put to the test—to have Enacted!—the thing it has taught and preached for thirty years?

The world is ready for Practise. Theories are nothing now. The war swept rationalism off its feet. Theories are ashes today, save those that can be Practised. Is the Golden Rule, of which single tax is but the economic statement, a mere Sound? Let the Harvesters prove its vital, immediate Practicability.

36.05 Commerce
G R

FEB 22 1918

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 2

DECEMBER 8, 1917

No. 5

Conscript the Idle Acres



HO is paying for the war?

Everybody but the holder of Idle Land.
Everybody but those who are keeping out
of use the one thing most needed to win
the war—the source of food!

All the workers are paying something
toward the war expense—twenty billion
dollars the first year! Big business and
the rich, even the land lord with his fat rent
roll—all are paying, not each his just share of course, but con-
siderable; all are paying except the holder of idle land. He is
paying nothing.

Put your money in idle land, vacant lots—unused acres, oil
wells, and coal mines—and thus escape the war tax! This is
being done every day. Wherever capital can find a cheap tract
of land, or vacant lot, or unused mineral deposit, it is leaving
productive enterprise and burying itself in the ground where the
tax collector doesn't reach it.

Everything is taxed for the war, except Idle Land!

The more and better use you make of your land the higher
your war tax. Every encouragement is given to those who sink
their money in the ground; every penalty is added to those who
use their money in making the land fruitful. This is going on
all over the nation, but to greater extent in California than else-
where. Capital is flowing to the Pacific Coast, looking for chances
to bury itself in Idle Land. The only discouragement it meets
is that most idle land is already in the hands of speculators

who can afford to hold on until the war is over—and then unload on the public, at ten times its original cost. Put your money in Idle Land, hold it Idle and thus escape the war tax, and when the population increases, the need of human beings for food and shelter will be so great that the poor will mortgage themselves to you for the privilege of living on or cultivating a bit of Your Earth(!) which your foresight and industry(!) and patriotism(!!) enabled you to Hold Idle against the nation's greatest need.

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR

This sign is conspicuous everywhere. We have a government food conserver; we have meatless Tuesdays, wheatless Wednesdays—and are Senseless every day in Rewarding capital for Holding Idle the Source of Food and of all human supplies.

There is enough Idle Land and resources on the Pacific Slope to feed and house and clothe the whole world, and to commissary generously all the warring armies, and timber and metal enough to build all the ships required to transport the goods—and Idle brokers and real estate agents enough in Los Angeles alone (well, nearly !!) to cultivate the land and build the ships. They are not farmers and mechanics, you say? That is no answer. Let them go to work in the stores and factories, and release from their unnatural occupations the thousands of farmers driven off the land by speculation and the thousands of clerks and salesmen who would rather be cultivators or mechanics but were forced from their natural bents by the stupidly unnatural system of land speculation.

There are millions of men and women working themselves to death at perfectly useless and unproductive occupations. In every office building in the nation are hundreds of groups of men and women scheming how to take away the fruits of labor and industry, how to get their living without producing anything. There is a vast army of non producers in this country, people whose work is entirely unnecessary either in producing supplies or in contributing to their distribution—and the larger part of them are neither bartenders nor artists. Most of them are people who buy, sell, and dicker in natural opportunities, making them ever harder and dearer for the people to reach.

These people are as blameless as any of us; very few have any

The Great Adventure

Vol. 2

DECEMBER 8, 1917

No. 5

To Circulators of The Great Adventure Single Tax Initiative Petition:

December 8, 1917

Advices of a recent ruling by the Attorney General's office makes it inadvisable to seek a filing of the Single Tax initiative demand, or any part thereof, after December 9th.

With the experience of last year, when clerks and registrars granted extensions out of their own unused time for checking, it was believed that supplementary filings could be made late in December. Perhaps they could be, despite the ruling, but it seems wiser not to raise the point and risk an adverse decision, which would mean that we attempted to file the petition and failed.

The Great Adventure council has decided not to file under the present registration, but to start afresh under the 1918 registration—having no regret for the old petition with its sixty or seventy thousand names. It was good campaigning, the very best that could be had for the same expense of work and money. It kept the issue practically alive all over the state and made it more insistent than the circulation of printed matter alone could have done.

This may be a blessing in disguise or another obstacle. If the latter, well, The Great Adventure's only use for an obstacle is to gain strength in overcoming it. There is nothing insurmountable or disheartening in this one.

Early in January the new petitions will be sent out.
Then for the big 1918 drive and an early filing!

THE GREAT ADVENTURE COUNCIL

THE BEST CHANCE

HELP THE CALIFORNIA "GREAT ADVENTURE" FIRST

Arden's "Plenty for All" Group of Single Taxers Decide to Concentrate Their Efforts Where There is the Best Chance of Winning.

On Sunday, November 4, the regular monthly meeting of the "Plenty for All" group of Arden, Del., decided by unanimous vote to pledge all its net cash receipts, until otherwise ordered, to the support of the 1918 "Great Adventure" campaign in California, the object of which is to free the land of that state for the use of the people thereof.

Now, we have a clean-cut and inspiring goal to work for. Already the men and women of California, who led the way in that wonderfully successful campaign of 1916, when 260,000 votes were cast for the straight Single Tax proposition, are hard at work. They are seeking throughout the state the 75,000 signatures of voters on the Initiative petition necessary to put the same constitutional amendment on the ballot for next year's election.

This large number of signatures must be obtained and filed with the Secretary of State before January 1, 1918, and to do this requires organized and long-continued labor. Money is absolutely imperative not only to pay those who are devoting their time to the circulating of petitions, but also to maintain those agencies of publicity which proved so effective there last year.

But once the requisite petition is filed, the second "Great Adventure" campaign will be launched for 1918 under far more favorable conditions than before—conditions which offer the best chance for any state in the Union to adopt the state-wide Single Tax plan. Thus established in the great state of California, with its versified industries, the Single Tax could soonest demonstrate to the nation and to the world the fundamental importance of *freeing the land*. Freeing it from the clutches of the speculators and the exploiters of labor, taking the heart out of *Special Privilege* and opening the earth for the legitimate use of all.

There—in California—is the line of least resistance. Let us lend a hand right there and now when needed by concentrating our monthly contributions for that campaign. Thus we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that the monthly payment each of us makes to the "Plenty for All" will be sent directly to the people in charge of the California "Great Adventure."

With this definite and most deserving purpose in view, may we count on you to join us in this effort?

W. L. ROSS, President.
ANNA ROSS, Treasurer.
FLORENCE GARVIN, Secretary.

Arden, Del., November 6.

choice in the matter; economically they try to find the line of least resistance. On an open earth under free conditions this would be in harmony with the individual's natural capacities. Under the artificial necessities of land monopoly it is usually the case of square pegs in round holes.

The real estate gambler is not to blame, nor would it better him or anyone to undertake to "reform" him. He is a hard worker as a rule, exhausts great energy and talents—and, like all the rest of the monopoly-ridden world, is doomed to failure ninety percent of the time. Only the big speculators finally win out. The unused land and resources are rapidly passing into the hands of a few big syndicates.

These conditions are nowhere so obvious and so popularly disesteemed as in California, where the people are ready to end them tomorrow. It is no exaggeration to say that fully eighty percent of the voters of this state are heartily opposed to land monopoly and fully convinced of its degrading and impoverishing effects.

What they are not convinced of is that a mere taxing scheme will really do this—that single tax will open the earth, abolish land monopoly, conscript the idle acres, throw the burden of taxation on the preemptors of unused land, put ground rent into the public treasury, make privilege pay the war bill.

Single tax has been presented to the world as a fiscal reform, in which only a few theorists and tax experts are in the least interested. The heart of the people is wide open to the big moral human issue of free access to the Source of supplies—and 260,332 voters of California (a third of the electorate) already understand that The Great Adventure's constitutional amendment proposes nothing less than a complete change at the base of life, means to take

FEAR AND ENVY OUT OF LIFE

—out of the daily economic strife, change its line of least resistance from deceit and graft to wholesome, playful work and give the warmer impulses a chance to grow and blossom. Single tax means all this if it means anything worth while. You may go on talking about it at banquets and hobby-horsing with it in Pueblo, but we on this coast are ready to Practice it.

The days of single tax as a property-class fiscal reform are over

in California. Taxation quibbles no longer cloud the big human issue in this state, nor in any state, for The Great Adventure is nation wide. Single tax means—to the people and to plutocracy—a complete change in the land system, means a Free and Open Earth! It means to end the Cause of war and, meanwhile, to put the burden of its active prosecution on the Idle Land and Resources!

Who will pay the huge war debt?

The speculators in human supplies, the holders of privileges—or it will be repudiated. Can you doubt it?

Single tax or syndicalism will be the next step in social relations. One means an orderly progression from the base of life upward and outward—means public ownership and huge co-operation on a Free Earth! The other means—Class War!

Which are You for?

Don't say "neither"—there's no such animal. The last neutral was jailed yesterday as an enemy spy. You are For or Against the immediate practise of the Golden Rule at the base of life, the single tax—a Free and Open Earth—here in California—Now!

You are helping to harvest the sowing of Henry George—by your sympathy and interest, your work, your dimes or your dollars; You are actively helping to Enact single tax in California—or your are helping plutocracy defeat it, You who have "seen the cat," who have talked and argued and preached single tax these, how many years?

Now it can be Practised in California at the next state election if the issue is put plainly and boldly to Every Voter. All the landless will vote for it—and many a land holder and banker. All will vote for it who understand it—save the big interests and speculators who understand it only too well.

Don't look on this as a local issue. Single tax must be nation-wide at least to gain its full fruits, but it must Begin somewhere and some time. Where better than in Henry George's state? When better than now? It will help to win the war. It will speed the end of the war. It will stop the Cause of war. It will usher in the dawn of social brotherhood.

336,057 Commerce
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WILHELM KUEHN

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The Great Adventure

FEB 1918
1918

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Vol. 2

JANUARY 5, 1918

No. 6

California the Immediate Hope!



THE strength of the single tax world militant massed at the weakest point of land monopoly at the right moment, will be victorious.

Victory for single tax means that all the natural opportunities—land and its water, timber, oil and mineral—shall become the common property of the whole people, shall be free and open to all on equal terms;

and that so long as rent remains a factor in civilization it shall be paid into the public treasury instead of into landlord's pockets.

Victory for single tax means to open the Source of food and supplies, to feed and equip the Allies, hasten the downfall of kaiserism, and end the cause of war.

This is the critical moment in history for the application of single tax. Famine threatens the world. Its larder is a billion bushels of wheat short! Coal, fats, oil, and most of the metals are almost exhausted. The figures are startling.

Now or never is the time to open the earth to production. Plutocracy is facing its inevitable results. Civilization cannot proceed on its present basis of land monopoly. All the theories are negligible. The physical fact of a world famine is before all who can reason a little—and the rest will soon feel it.

Now! the land must be opened. It will be. Either syndicalism with its violent seizure of the industries as in Russia and in Mexico, or single tax with its promise of accomplishing the same results in a more harmonious and quicker way will speedily end

the feudal land system—open the idle acres and mines to production!—close them to privilege and speculation!

At this moment in California there is every reasonable hope—all aside from the zealous certainty of the campaigners—of putting to the test of practise the full single tax. Viewed most disinterestedly, no one familiar with the situation in this state doubts at least the extreme probability of The Great Adventure measure being voted in at the next election. Nothing but the lack of a sufficient fund to carry the full message of single tax to every voter prevented its adoption in 1916; and this year the banks and speculators who then fought single tax will hardly care to stand with the kaiser in plotting to lessen the Allies' food supply by keeping the land closed to production!

Single tax will carry in California this year, because the single tax world militant is now awake to the situation and will mass its strength in the Golden State.

OREGON STANDS FOR IMMEDIATE RESULTS!

A splendid indication of this is the recent decision of Oregon to abstain from their campaign this year in favor of throwing all their strength to California. In 1916 the W. S. U'Ren bill for the complete absorption of land values, tho poorly financed, won a quarter of the electorate to its support and there was much hope of a greatly increased vote with even the possibility of winning this year. For nearly a year it was debated whether to concentrate on California or to go on with the U'Ren measure. There were good advocates with good reasons for both positions—until the logic of the California situation, with its imminent hope for the Immediate Enactment of single tax drew both parties together in a meeting held on December 23d to greet J. R. Hermann, the veteran campaigner of Missouri and Colorado. Doubtless it was Hermann, who has realized the living hope in The Great Adventure since its inception, that ended the friendly dispute.

Anyway, it was at the Hermann meeting that the decision was made, Unanimously! enthusiastically! And since then assurances of every possible assistance from Oregon keep coming to The Great Adventure headquarters.

Mr. Hermann is one of the ablest and best known of the milit-

ant campaigners in the single tax world. He is for a free and open earth Now—and believes it can be accomplished in California this year. He has just concluded a successful trip thru the Northwest, taken on his own initiative, yet on behalf of The Great Adventure in California.

Like everything it has or is or hopes for, Campaigner Hermann just came to The Great Adventure because it was his fight and he that kind of a fighter—because he belonged there. And now he is going to stay along and help to make the winning so decisive that no court will dare to juggle it.

With all the cards on the table (even for plutocracy to read) the need of the California campaign is for a sufficient fund to keep the issue alive and ungarbled to every voter of the state. Volunteer workers are not lacking, and more are coming—it is not a question of salaries, but of bare expenses. For any decent sort of campaign not a dollar less than fifty thousand should be forthcoming—and Hermann is going out as Field Secretary of The Great Adventure in California (sans salary, as every other worker in it) to help get that fifty thousand.

Evidently that money has got to come from the plain people, from the poor and from those in moderate circumstances. The rich will not subscribe large sums for the Immediate Application of single tax. They want it to come gradually—by the “slow processes of evolution”—when it can’t possibly reach their privilege? We who need it Now to feed the children of Today must make it now out of our own slender means.

ALL THE NORTHWEST FOR CALIFORNIA

Hermann stopped at a dozen places coming west from Denver and everywhere was warmly greeted as a Great Adventurer and assured that California loomed big on the horizon as the economic hope of the nation. He bears especially a message from the State Grange of Washington, whose new president William Bauck (succeeding the Late C. B. Kegley) assured him that the farmers of the Northwest are not for exemptions or any half measure or approach, but for the full single tax on land values and the abolition of all other taxes—for the quick ending of land monopoly.

President Bauck pledges full sympathy and all possible co-operation for the single tax measure in California.

NATIONAL GREAT ADVENTURE

For immediate political action to secure at once the primary condition of human freedom: That the land and its resources shall be open to all on equal terms, by taking ground rent for public purposes, thru the Single Tax on land value.

W. J. WALLACE, *President*, Newark, N. J., LUKE NORTH, *Vice President*, Los Angeles, CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, *Treasurer*, New York City, JAMES H. DIX, *Secretary*, ROBERT C. MACAULEY, *Chairman Finance Committee*, JAMES A. ROBINSON, *Organizer*, Philadelphia.

OFFICE NATIONAL SECRETARY 618 LAND TITLE BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA

ELECTION OF NATIONAL COMMITTEEMEN—The National Great Adventure, organized in Atlantic City, April 1917, elected provisional national committeemen in twenty-one states. For California, Lona Ingham Robinson, Edgcumb and Herman Kuehn were chosen. Their term expires February 1st of this year. Their successors are to be elected by a mail referendum, in which you are expected to participate. If you are not formally a member of The National Great Adventure, yet are in sympathy with its purpose, payment of the annual dues of one dollar will enroll you, and entitle you to vote.

Let every Adventurer write at once his preference for national committeemen, naming three. The poll will be open until the last mail delivery January 22d, and the result announced in these pages immediately thereafter. Vote early—but not too often!—and address HERMAN KUEHN, Secretary California National Committee, 203 Tajo building, Los Angeles.

Very soon Hermann will start on his mid-Western and Eastern tour for the California campaign. Everyone who remembers the Missouri campaign of 1912 knows of Hermann and something of the conspicuous part he played therein—in the days when they threatened to lynch those who suggested that the earth "should be held in usufruct for the living."

The shoe is on the other foot now, and if there is to be any moral condemnation in the matter, the odium will fall on anyone who will stand with the German kaiser in plotting to keep the land closed to the production of food and supplies.

If there's a chance yet for Hermann to visit Your Town and hold a good Great Adventure rally, write at once to Secretary-Treasurer Herman Kuehn, 203 Tajo building, Los Angeles.

"The loss of each food ship is a tragedy. But the idle acres of America could grow more food per year than all the enemy's ships can destroy. Every idle acre helps the enemy. Hinder rations and you hinder victory."

New Address 203 Tajo Bldg, First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Calif.

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Vol. 2

JANUARY 19, 1918

No. 7

Concentration in and on California



ETTING together by parliamentary palaver is a lost hope. The more men talk the further they get apart—that is what talk is for, to express individual characteristics which are, superficially, of infinite, delightful variety.

In action men come together. It is the logic of events that draws them, the swiftly running current of immediate happenings—the work to do Here and Now—the thing next at hand Today, which to leave undone imperils everything that all men hold most dear.

So the war and its strenuous activities came to the United States—and, lo! after the dazed ones had rubbed their eyes and fully awakened, we found that these states really were United, in action and in sympathy, to Do the one Big Thing that human destiny had carved for us—Destroy Kaiserism!

Woodrow Wilson is a master psychologist. He did not call for a national palaver to decide by windy word of mouth whether the actual integrity of the nation was in danger (he knew it was!) and whether it were really advisable, at this time, and to the best interests of all concerned, upon the whole, to enter the world war Now—or maybe after awhile—perhaps. Such a palaver would have been going on still—with German submarines in all our harbors, probably.

The Hour struck, and found the Man ready—for Action!

Wilson is not a man born too soon. Of these the world has always had a superfluity. Its need has been for a few men born at the right time to focus the scattered threads of idealism and make them actual and tangible—men unafraid, even of failure—such a man as Lincoln was. When the hour and the man are in conjunction, “the stars in their courses” will attend to the rest. Lincoln didn’t set out to end slavery.

Events led him—and he more than others knew how lucky he was to have handled the pen that signed the Proclamation.

Events are leading Wilson—see how rapidly!

Yesterday the transportation lines passed from control of private profiteers—at least in so far as profiteerism (which is really synonymous with prussianism) can be kept from influencing congress. And at the worst of that, the public will be mulcted somewhat less than it has been. But the vital fact is that the railroads are now at the service of the nation to prosecute the war!

TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRACY

But the railroads cannot win the war. "Food will win the war!"—and the land alone can yield it—railroads only carry it. Food grows in the soil! And the idle land of America is more monopolized and prussianized than were the railroads.

See the logic of events!

Tomorrow the Source of food will pass from monopoly control—and then privilege, profitism, and prussianism are dead at home; democracy for which the Allies are warring is established—and the natural, human, and mechanical resources of the richest nation on earth are at Wilson's hand to win the war!

This logic of events has opened the eyes and stirred the hearts of all who see that the Single Tax on Land Values is the easy, quick, harmonious, beautiful, unconfusing way to free the land to Use—to the immediate production of food for the Allies, and the immediate alleviation of the public from its heavy burden of high prices!

Now the single tax world, for the first time since the death of Henry George, stands united in Action, to apply single tax in the state where Progress and Poverty was written and first printed. It is the "logic of events"—or something other beyond the ken of man.

Scarcely six months ago there was doubt and confusion in the single tax world, much palaver about the timeliness of this or that measure, even opposition here in California from a few of the brethren of the faith who thought The Great Adventure measure was impracticable because too far ahead of the time.

But time has leaped forward. Now it is apparent to the dullest and the timidest that the Idle resources will soon be opened to the production of food and supplies. The administration will conscript them, as it did the men and the railroads—unless we get there first and hand them over in a gentlemanly and harmonious way.

It was thru no gift of prophecy, but with a firmer faith in human idealism, that The Great Adventure stood firm for its original measure

of only one tax on land values, against much pressure by those who controlled the single tax war chest. Yet how could it have wavered, backed as it was by at least the moral sympathy and encouragement of fully ninety-seven per cent of the single tax rank and file endorsed as it was by the confidence and the votes of 250,332 California electors?

We all set sail under "sealed orders," The Great Adventure no less than those who opposed it. But we are out of the harbor now and have broken the seal. Behold the "orders" read:

"The land must be opened to production. California, where over 260,000 voters are pledged to it and unceasing agitation has made single tax a household word, is the 'line of least resistance' for its immediate application!"

All the world has read the orders—and approved. At home there is no longer any opposition to The Great Adventure's simple, straightforward proposal, and in this (following) declaration by the conservative National Single Tax League, whose heaviest contributors opposed both the California and the National Great Adventure, the very last opposition to the immediate enactment of single tax in the only state where it can be immediately enacted, is withdrawn. The declaration, as it appears in The Bulletin of the League, reads:

HOW TO WIN THE WAR

Get word to the German soldiers and civilians that the United States is a country with opportunities open to the whole world, for labor on terms assuring the laborer his entire product. Add to this assurance that all German soldiers surrendering can have the advantage of these conditions, as well as American citizens. With this once understood, the Kaiser's army would dissolve in a month and permanent peace would quickly follow. But it would first be necessary to establish conditions in the United States in accordance with the promises. To do that, all unused and inadequately used land must be opened to labor, and to accomplish that the Single Tax unlimited must be established. Congress could make a start at it with a Federal land value tax and by doing away with taxes on labor. The States should do the same. Those who oppose this procedure are needlessly prolonging the war, making harder the task of the men in the field and increasing losses and sacrifices. Besides, they are making it possible for Germany to do it first. Work for the Single Tax is the most effective work for speedy victory and peace.

This is a clear, frank statement, withdrawing the last and most conservative opposition to The Great Adventure's one tax demand. Home rule, tax elimination, the retention of the corporation tax—these side issues, "easy approaches," are all dead, forgotten, inside and outside of California. No other than the Single Tax amendment will be on the California ballot this year, or seek to be. The "logic of events" has had its way with us all and brought us face to face with the absolute neces-

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sity of opening the earth to production Now. The issue is Food, to provision the troops and win the war!

Again, the same formerly conservative source, criticises Senator John Sharp Williams because he wrote: "Some day the world will come to single tax."

"Then why not Now?" leaps the answer of the former "easy approach" man. Welcome, brother! That is the shibboleth of The Great Adventure, whose California initiative demand reads as follows:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

Not only is California united on this measure, as the best and only possible one under all the present circumstances, but the whole nation is in line. Single tax unlimited is the need of the hour and here in the Golden State is the one chance of Immediately enacting it. The new emancipation amendment needs only ratification at the polls—and who, in this hour of national peril, will dare or care to oppose it? Only prussian intrigue and sympathy, and these are almost nil in California.

You who will rejoice in the victory, will find your joy greater if you have had a hand in making the victory, and the victory will be greater and more secure for every hand that helped to make it. Every dollar will count. The treasurer is Herman Kuehn, 203 Tajo building, Los Angeles.

The Garfield coal order has already caused more industrial confusion than could possibly ensue were the full single tax applied to the nation over night. It is also a cosmic joke—however tragic—that the richest Unused coal deposits in the world should be in the center of the manufacturing district that is coerced into closing down for lack of coal!

Is it now too soon to Enact single tax?

Concentration in and on California spells victory in November.

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Vol. 2

FEBRUARY 9, 1918

No. 8

California's Battle Line Closes



ITH the election of Judge J. H. Ryckman to the executive committee of The Great Adventure in California, at the meeting of February 2d, there came to a happy ending (so far as human vision can foresee) that contentious book of "Doctrinaire Differences" whose first chapter began with the birth of The Great Adventure's single (one) tax measure early in 1916.

Against great odds, poorly financed, openly opposed by former singletaxers, the one tax proposal won a place on the state ballot against the opposing home rule measure and at the election gained the surprisingly large vote of 260,332. In 1917 the Equity Tax League and its tax elimination bill took the place of home rule in opposition to The Great Adventure measure.

Came the nation's part in the world war and the Allies' need for food and supplies—singletaxers know the Source of them!

World events have closed the ranks and shown unmistakably the line of least resistance against the common enemy—Land Monopoly!

Food will win the war! The war must be won—and quickly! Food can only come from land that is Used—the land must be opened at once! On this issue there is no single tax difference of opinion, or procedure, in California now, and probably none at all in the United States. This is the nation's hour of peril. It is clear that single tax cannot come too quickly—the danger is that it may not come fast enough. The world is moving—events are hastening. These are culminating days. We are only harvest hands.

That single tax can (and in all human probability will) be enacted into the California constitution at the election this year is as nearly a "forgone conclusion" as anything in the future can be.

The fighting forces are united. On the 28th of January the Equity Tax League withdrew its initiative measure and vacated its offices. Its former president, H. W. McFarlane, has authorized G. J. Johnson and Judge Ryckman to announce that the Equity Tax proposal is out of the field and all efforts to place it on the ballot have been abandoned.

In formally re-joining The Great Adventure, Judge Ryckman assured the campaign committee that not only was all opposition withdrawn, but in light of recent world happenings he felt sure that the entire radical, labor, and liberal forces of California were now in spirit and would soon be in actual working harness, behind the one political revolutionary demand of the hour—to Change the Land System!

UNITED FOR THE NEW CAMPAIGN

Entering unitedly the 1918 campaign to open the Source of food to production, under charter of The National Great Adventure for Single Tax, the following active workers have banded themselves as a Campaign Committee to direct the line of battle thruout the state:

Chas. Alexander, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Mrs. W. D. Hoffman, <i>Hollywood</i>	Ben Putnam, <i>Winters</i>
W. Breitinger, <i>Bakersfield</i>	Dr. R. B. Hoag, <i>Atolia</i>	Edgcumb Pinchon, <i>Manhattan</i>
F. E. L. Bailey, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Viola Kelly, <i>Los Angeles</i>	M. A. Rexrode, <i>Los Angeles</i>
Maude N. Brodeur, <i>Berkeley</i>	Herman Kuehn, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Lona I. Robinson, <i>Glendale</i>
W. W. Carland, <i>Los Angeles</i>	S. P. Laing, <i>Sacramento</i>	J. H. Ryckman, <i>Los Angeles</i>
J. M. Chatterton, <i>San Diego</i>	Georgina Loge, <i>Alhambra</i>	Robert L. Smith, <i>Santa Ana</i>
Mrs. L. E. Cook, <i>Edendale</i>	Frank McCreery, <i>Eureka</i>	Wm. A. Spill, <i>Pasadena</i>
J. W. Durham, <i>Glendale</i>	P. K. Mohr, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Whitt Sterling, <i>San Francisco</i>
Lucy Durham, <i>Glendale</i>	John H. Meyer, <i>Fresno</i>	C. K. Stern, <i>San Francisco</i>
W. R. Edwards, <i>Chula Vista</i>	Luke North, <i>South Pasadena</i>	M. M. Thorne, <i>Uno</i>
August Gamble, <i>Pasadena</i>	Emma J. Oviatt, <i>Santa Barbara</i>	John O. Varian, <i>Halcyon</i>
Diana Griffes, <i>South Pasadena</i>	S. G. Pandit, <i>Highland Park</i>	George Weber, <i>Oceano</i>
A. V. Hahn, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Dr. A. H. Patterson, <i>Edendale</i>	Otto Werner, <i>Ocean Park</i>
T. C. Hawley, <i>Lodi</i>	Geo. Patterson, <i>Los Angeles</i>	Thos. W. Williams, <i>Los Angeles</i>
W. W. Hill, <i>Santa Rosa</i>	Max Paul, <i>Stockton</i>	J. H. Young, <i>Alameda</i>

The committee is not exclusive in its membership and will welcome to fellowship all members of the national body who can give the work their active support. In Los Angeles the committee meets at headquarters (203 Tajo building, First and Broadway) every Saturday evening at 7:30. Its executive committee, in daily session at headquarters, is composed of—

Luke North, <i>chairman</i>	Dr. Adah H. Patterson
Lona Ingham Robinson, <i>vice chairman</i>	Thos. W. Williams
Herman Kuehn, <i>secretary-treasurer</i>	G. J. Johnson
P. K. Mohr	Charles Alexander
W. W. Carland, <i>auditor</i>	<i>finance committee</i>

The secretary-treasurer's report for January, as accepted by the Campaign Committee Feb. 2d, show receipts from all sources, including cash balance Jan. 2, of \$741.64, with expenditures of \$707.82. Contributors and interested workers are more than welcome to inspect the detailed statement on file in the office.

A great task lies immediately ahead—that of procuring not less than

100,000 signatures to the 1918 initiative demand, which differs not the least in essence and very slightly in wording, from the bill of 1917. The only change is in the added sentence that makes it impossible to claim that the simple one tax on land values has any adverse bearing on the constitutional exemptions of war veteran, college, and church building property. It reads:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1½, 1½ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Three hundred volunteer canvassers are busy in all parts of the state, but the time is short. The first filing should be made early in April. Three hundred more must take the field at once. People sign readily enough—hardly anybody refuses—but the new registration is not half completed yet.

THE NEW DRIVE FOR 100,000 NAMES

If you live in California, go and register, so you can sign the New Magna Charta for a Free Earth. Register at once—then sign, and get your busy neighbor's signature. Victory is in sight—here and in Europe, for Food Will Win the War!

It will not be won however without the hardest (albeit joyful) work—nor can it be won on too lean a war chest.

The new finance committee estimates that a paltry sum of \$100,000 will assure victory. Of this amount the first \$1000 has been subscribed by G. J. Johnson of Grand Rapids, the Michigan representative of The National Great Adventure.

The question now before the single tax world is—Do you really want single tax?

Clearly, this is not a state, but a world-wide, movement—and it Moves! tho, alas! not so rapidly as the world-wide trend toward economic reconstruction is moving, leaping, to it—or to something more sweeping that may not work out so harmoniously.

Who have faith that the single tax way is the easy, simple, unconfusing method of liberating human society from its long thralldom to the feudal land-holding system—this is our opportunity, not to educate, agitate, or theorize about single tax, but to enact it into the constitution of the Golden State.

The eyes of the world are on California now. Here is the hope of a

NATIONAL GREAT ADVENTURE

For immediate political action to secure at once the primary condition of human freedom: That the land and its resources shall be open to all on equal terms, by taking ground rent for public purposes, thru the Single Tax on land value.

W. J. WALLACE, *President*, Newark, N. J.; LUKE NORTH, *Vice President*, Los Angeles; CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, *Treasurer*, New York City; JAMES H. DIX, *Secretary*, ROBERT C. MACAULEY, *Chairman Finance Committee*, JAMES A. RORINSON, *Organizer*, Philadelphia.

OFFICE NATIONAL SECRETARY 618 LAND TITLE BUILDING, PHILADELPHIA

reconstruction without bloodshed or confusion to any productive interests. Here are the tools of democracy, the political mechanism whereby great changes can be effected with no disturbance—without guns or bayonets and the ill-feeling they engender. Here for the first time in history the people of a great state are to test the efficacy of political democracy and use its machinery to establish the actual democracy that can only obtain when all the people have free and equal access to the means of subsistence. Until this is gained, political democracy means little more than any other ocracy—means only the way thru which the heart and soul of democracy may be procured.

Gained in California, is there the least doubt that it will spread rapidly thru the nation—the world? If single tax is the true way—and it is—who will now hesitate, or withhold himself from the first and most favorable opportunity for its immediate enactment that the logic of events has presented?

Do the single taxers of the world want single tax?

Attention, Adventures!

LOS ANGELES GROUP of The National Great Adventure for Single Tax will dine at Y.W.C.A. Cafeteria, 251 South Hill Street, Friday evening, Feb. 8th, at 6:45—followed by an open meeting to begin the 1918 drive for the Enactment of single tax.

You are invited, none is excluded—doubters especially welcome.

G. J. Johnson of Grand Rapids, National Committeeman for Michigan will be welcomed. Judge William A. Spill will deliver the address.

August Gamble will be toastmaster. Judge J. H. Ryckman, Dr. S. C. Pandit, Dr. Adah Patterson, W. R. Edwards, and others will speak.

There will be a crowd out, so send a postal or phone to headquarters to save a place at the table for You—and as many as you will. There'll be plenty room, only the secretary should know early on the 7th about how many plates to reserve. (The fee is 50 cents).

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, for Committee on Arrangements, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, 'phone Main 4905.

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Commercial

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The

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Vol. 2

FEBRUARY 16, 1918

No. 9

To Avert a World Famine!



INGLE TAX is the salvation of the nation. It is the only solution of the war problem—for Food Will Win the War! It will open the land to the immediate and unlimited production of Food!

If food will win the war the lack of food will lose the war—and food can only come from land that is put to Use.

In California are Twenty Million Idle Fertile Acres—and the People's Single Tax Initiative Demand to open them to production, at the coming election, by amendment to the state constitution.

Are you helping in this? Unless you are doing, or training for, the actual fighting at the front, what better service can you give your nation and the cause of democracy against Prussian tyranny, than active work for the People's War Measure to open the land to the raising of food?

Germany has every foot of land in Use, and every adult and most of the children are working at useful, productive work—the people as industrial slaves; and the aristocratic junkers are toiling to enable Germany to dominate the world!

Did you read this dispatch, or dozens of others like it, in the daily press:

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—World-wide famine, unless drastic steps to increase production are taken immediately, was predicted by Representative John M. Baer today.

The United States and our allies face famine was his flat statement before the house agricultural committee.

"Food stands and will stand supreme among the requirements of the belligerents. Unless food is supplied and in great quantities, the very existence of whole nations is threatened."

"The world can be saved from famine only by the United States," Baer said. He cited figures to show what wheat crops in all the allied nations are short, that almost all the winter wheat fields of Russia are

in possession of Germans and that crops of India, Australia and Argentine cannot be gotten out because of the lack of tonnage.

Only Prussian money or influence will oppose the opening of California's Twenty Million Idle Acres to the immediate production of food and supplies for the Allied Armies and People. Prussianism is not all in Germany. There is much of it in Wall street, known as Profiteerism, which seeks to dominate and despoil the people. Prussianism and Profiteerism are identical in results. Both discourage and weaken the Allied arms, and strengthen Germany. Only Profiteering and Prussianism now plot to keep the earth closed to production.

What other motive can urge any one to be lukewarm toward, or against, the people's initiative demand for free land in California since free land is the one thing needed to insure victory for the Allies?

IDLE MEN ON IDLE LAND

The situation is plain and clear enough for the blind to see. The need of the nation is Food and supplies. Here are Twenty Million Idle Acres, a billion dollars' worth of vacant lots, untold treasures of unused oil and mineral, all held out of use for speculation—so that someone can get something for nothing—in this hour of national peril, when German submarines are sinking American transports, when only Food can win the war!—and food can only come from land that is open to Use!

On this vast wealth of unused opportunities for human beings to go and employ themselves in producing food and supplies are a hundred thousand Idle Men, a hundred thousand men and women working for less than a decent living wage, and more than two hundred thousand people (in California alone) working at unproductive, unnecessary occupations, such as agents, canvassers, schemers, promoters, loan sharks, mortgage brokers, etc.—and another hundred thousand rich idlers who do nothing at all useful or helpful, but live on the food and supplies grown, harvested, and manufactured by human labor.

We are facing a world famine. Five million—perhaps ten million—soldiers must be fed and equipped. The world market is a billion bushels of wheat short; fats, oils, and metals are equally scarce—and here in California are Twenty Million Idle Fertile Acres and half a million or more men and women doing no useful work.

But that is not all. In the United States are fully a million men, now doing little or nothing for themselves or the nation who would gladly rush to California and go to work on the land were it not for the impossible price at which it is held by speculation.

California's Twenty Million Idle Acres will feed the Allied world when

they are thrown open to human labor—and the first and greatest need of the Allies is Food!

What is it but Prussian money, Prussian intrigue, Prussian influence and preference that will agitate against the people's initiative to open the idle resources of the richest state in the union to the immediate production of Food and supplies?

Every idle acre, every vacant lot, every unused oil well, iron, or coal mine, every unemployed or poorly paid man, is an asset, a hope, a strength to the German Kaiser!

Are you for America and the Allies, or for "Germany over all"? You are one or the other. Neutrals are enemies. Do you want junkerdom to dominate the world, kill the Russian revolution, put back the rising tide of democracy in England, France, Italy, Austria, Germany, and the United States.

"Food will win the War!"—and here are Twenty Million Idle Fertile Acres!—and a million and a half practically Idle Men anxious to work on them! If you care anything for the cause of the Allies, for the "boys at the front," for the millions of American soldiers who will soon be in the trenches and on the firing line, you will do your utmost to speed The People's War Measure to open the land and resources of California to the immediate production of food and supplies.

FREE MEN ON FREE LAND OR COOLIE LABOR?

Single Tax is no longer a theory. The demand for free land is imperative. Either the land must be opened to free American labor—or Chinese coolies must be imported to work it as slaves!

The big holders of idle land are asking for the coolies. The "interests" and the speculators are demanding Mongolian laborers to come to California and cultivate the soil—raise food and supplies for the Allied troops and people. They are agitating to have the Chinese and Japanese exclusion act set aside to flood the state with labor able and willing to till the earth at wages less than half the cost of a white man's food.

Will American manhood stand for that?

Certainly it will not. The importation of coolie labor into California will mean little less, if any, than civil war. It will lead to violence and bloodshed.

Yet the land must be worked! Food production must be enormously and immediately increased. It is not a question of anyone's private interests—it is a matter of national safety—it is the issue of winning or losing the war!

And the only solution is the enactment of the following Single Tax

NATIONAL GREAT ADVENTURE

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W. J. WALLACE, President, Newark, N. J.; LUKE NORTH, Vice President, Los Angeles; CHARLES H. INGERSOLL, Treasurer, New York City; JAMES H. DIX, Secretary, ROBERT C. MACAULEY, Chairman Finance Committee, JAMES A. ROBINSON, Organizer, Philadelphia.

Amendment to free the land to American labor:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This amendment will change the land system of California and practically make Use the only title to land. It will protect the farmer and home owner by greatly reducing their tax burdens and preventing the trusts from holding up the public by monopoly prices; and will make it impossible to hold valuable lots and large tracts out of use. The tax is not on land, but on the location or site Value of the land.

This amendment is Manhood's answer to the nation's call for food, and to the speculator's cry for coolie labor.

What are you doing to help it? The immediate need is for 100,000 signatures to the initiative petition, and for cash to pay printer's bills and clerical work. Come in and sign, take out a blank and get your busy neighbor's signature.

Fill out this pledge for all you can spare and mail to The Great Adventure headquarters, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles.

Dollars to ENACT Single Tax

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to the Immediate production of Food and Supplies, count me in for \$_____ herewith

\$_____ weekly } until the State Election
\$_____ monthly } November 5, 1918

Name. _____

Address. _____

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Vol. 2

MARCH 9, 1918

No. 10

THE PASSING OF A MAN

HERMAN KUEHN crossed the firing line on the evening of March 5th. He went away suddenly—to some Greater Adventure?—answering a summons no one else heard? Some high emprise in the storming of heaven's battlements awaiting an intrepid soul to scale an untried embankment, sword in teeth?

Herman's ear would be quick for such a call.

We saw him go, head high and face forward—as he lived. He trusted death as he trusted life. He was not afraid.

"I have seen perhaps a thousand people in their last moments," says his friend Dr. Hoeffer, but none died so manfully as Herman Kuehn."

A few of us returned from San Francisco on the 6th, opened the door buoyantly with "Hello, Herman!" on our lips.

A little group stood around his desk—"Herman is dead!"

His going left a great gap in the ranks: we were all dismayed—for a moment. Then others leaped to his place, the ranks closed, and by his bier in the little chapel of Rosedale crematory, on the afternoon of the 8th, half a hundred of his most intimate friends met, not to weep and mourn the Inevitable, but to pay highest tribute to his memory in repledging their fealty to the cause for which he lived and died—the Freedom of the Earth to the People!

Firmly he believed this could be achieved Now! mightily he fought that it should be, devoutly he thought we stood within sight of the Promised Land!—yet he relinquished without a murmur.

The acute attack of intestinal troubles that caused his death wrung occasional groans from his reluctant lips. "Do they annoy you?" he inquired, apologetically, of the physician and the nurse.

He retained full possession of his remarkable mentality until the last and calmly, smilingly disputed the doctor's assurance that he had a good chance of recovery. "No; this is final," he said. "Don't worry about it.

I'm content. I have lived, enjoyed, battled as I could. It is nothing to die—only natural, and restful."

Several painless hours preceded death. He turned to the physician: "You have my full authority to administer a euthansia, doctor."

"I still think you have a chance for life," said Dr. Hoeffer.

"You're mistaken—if you really mean it," said Herman.

They talked awhile of impersonal things, the patient illustrating with his inexorable story. He expressed his faith that within a few months the first decisive step would be taken toward tangible freedom by the enactment of the single tax amendment to the California constitution—"and why not in Missouri, as well?" he questioned. "The time is ripe wherever the issue is frankly presented. The people are just as ready to abolish the institutionalized privilege of holding land idle as you and I are. It's only the captains who hesitate."

"We spoke of many things. I never heard a man converse so interestingly," says the doctor. "Toward sundown he said smilingly, 'Well, this is the end,' quietly turned on his side—and went out!"

So died a—Gentleman, if that word has any genuine value left; if it will connote true delicacy of thought and feeling, as well as deportment; entire trustworthiness, rare intellectual vigor and daring, a high scorn of tinsel and pretense; cleanliness of body, habit, and thought; a deep culture of the heart and mind; profound human faith and love.

He was sixty-six years old, as straight and as graceful of carriage as an uncivilized Indian. Behind his gray beard, under his ample gray wavy hair, he walked and spoke as we fancy a prophet of Israel would. He was tall and well proportioned. He had traveled much and read about everything worth while. He was a Jew by birth and had the Jew's natural courage and self-confidence sans any of his clannishness. His deepest instincts were cosmopolitan.

In his early manhood, as an underwriter, he was in the ten thousand dollars-a-year class. He knew and was well known by most of the financial men of his time. Temperate in all his ways (save in his later intellectual passions which he pursued relentlessly) the millionaire status was easily within his grasp—only he lacked grasp in that direction. Money didn't fall to him inevitably, as it does to some men, and as he grew he lost interest in its pursuit. Other, and what seemed to him greater things, engrossed his energies.

Herman Kuehn was no "martyr"—his sense of humor was too developed for that. He followed his strongest desires, which were broadly sympathetic, idealistic, intellectual. He had the gambler's instinct, and the prophet's sense of proportion. The money game was too small for

him. He played with high stakes and sought the biggest game life can afford. If he could have seen wider and higher interests than The Great Adventure—(Did he answer such a call?)—we would have lost him earlier. The man's size of The Great Adventure attracted him.

That Fate might throw loaded dice against us was a thought that sometimes intruded, but Herman would laugh it away—"That's none of our business. Let a man do the biggest thing he can find to do, and be equal-minded about results. Our throw is against privilege and plutocracy—"

Herman, I will try to keep the faith.—Luke North.

GERRIT J. JOHNSON: Herman Kuehn sold out his business at Minneapolis so that he could take up the work of secretary-treasurer of The Great Adventure at Los Angeles. He came here well dressed, had some money. He knew that this new undertaking had no remuneration. Working for the masses must be its own reward. But he was a single-taxer to the core. With him it was a labor of love. Intellectually he was a giant, in human sympathy he was a saint. He left as his earthly possessions the suit of clothes he wore, a few books and a small bundle of laundry. Yet he was the richest man I ever knew.

I imagine him waking on the other side as he beholds the pearly gates, his face all aglow, for he did so love the beautiful. Again, I see him and his face has become a question mark. He goes back to the judgment bar and asks if there are any less fortunate there and says, "Please place me where I can do some good. Let my reward be service."

FLORENCE E. L. BAILEY: All the beautiful thoughts spoken at the chapel about Mr. Kuehn were the ones I wanted to say but could not. His acquaintance was to me like the joys of a prolonged June day, so warm, so tranquil and withal so enlightening and gentle. I am more nearly broken hearted over the loss than I've ever been. I cannot but mourn.

DAVID BOBSPA: Au revoir, Herman, martyr of the revolution! My good gray friend has passed on to the next lesson. I cannot think that the physical dissolution termed death interrupts the life process of the individual. I shall later join you, Herman, and we will continue our discussions of life. Our warrior left us on the eve of victory—a victory for which his life is part payment. Big of heart, mighty of brain, keen of intellect and loyal to the core, Herman Kuehn was the peer of any modern leader. His optimism and faith in humanity buoyed the little group of Great Adventurers during the dark, lean days of 1917 when he shouldered the worries and cares of the cause he loved. Herman Kuehn taught me more than all the professors combined under whom I sat. We who are left must press on. We must not mourn. Flowers soon wither.

Victory for The Great Adventure, for the ownership of America by the people, is the tribute Herman will like best of all in the radiant realms.

CHARLES ALEXANDER: Herman Kuehn's remarkable personality grew upon me as I became more and more acquainted with him. I found him to be the most congenial and companionable comrade, and I esteemed him as a true, upright, generous friend, engaged in a noble work of universal import and value to the human race. Herman Kuehn was an intellectual man, keen, alert, analytical, sound. He was a philosopher, a writer, a teacher, a man of singular gifts of speech; and he was convincing. His sincerity was evinced by the almost pathetic personal sacrifice which he made in behalf of the single tax movement in California. He was courageous, too. He was not alarmed by the temporary miscarriage of justice; not timerous in the expression of his thought, nor afraid to die. In his passing I feel a deep personal loss, and a loss to our cause in California quite irreparable.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON: He came to us in early summer, quietly unheralded as do the joys of spring, the dews, the sunsets. We accepted him as we take these other rich blessings, as a matter of course. If ever he had personal vanity or ambition he had left it far back on the road. He did any work most needed. And so the office of secretary-treasurer devolved upon him. But routine could not swallow him up. He was equal to any occasion. A good story, a brilliant speech, every variety of clever letters. Frowning creditors left him appeased, smiling, willing to wait, and anxious to help on the campaign.

All who came within his radius felt the warm pulsating presence of a man of both heart and intellect. He went as he came; slipping quietly away from us without warning. But in passing, his great soul left a rich legacy for us all. "A few will miss me, a larger number may regret my going; that's all," were among his last words.

Dollars to ENACT Single Tax

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to the Immediate production of Food and Supplies, count me in for \$_____ herewith

\$_____	weekly	}
\$_____	monthly	

until the State Election
November 5, 1918

The fellowship
of regular con-
tributions is
better than a
lump sum and
a long silence.

Name _____

Address _____

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Commerce

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Vol. 2

MARCH 23, 1918

No. 11

To Keep Down Food Production !

GERMANY'S man power is at its height. Her hope is that the Allies will be unable to mass an overwhelming force before she has worn them out and forced a settlement at least somewhat favorable to her domineering ambition. Without the United States this would be easy, for by using all her natural resources she is able to maintain her top strength indefinitely, while Britain with its slums and great idle estates, must soon weaken from lack of food.

This Republic is Germany's danger and the hope of the world war—and our strength is Food! We may send many troops to France, but that will increase our Food responsibility—so much more food to cross the sea besides our enormous shipments to England.

Germany's best chance of winning or gaining a "draw" is to decrease the food supply of the Allies. That means either to destroy the food en route from the United States to England, or to conspire against its production in this country.

Since the practical failure of submarine warfare on supply ships, Prussian intrigue in the United States has operated with the profiteers in trying to camouflage the popular demand for immediate opening to food production the nation's Five Hundred Million Idle fertile acres.

Hundreds of petty schemes are agitated for increasing the food supply by ounces and pints—while keeping closed to production the source of a thousand ship loads of wheat and food staples. We are to raise onions in the front yard instead of roses, grow potatoes on rented vacant lots, plow the roadside, anything to distract public attention from the urgent necessity of opening the land to production. Little schemes for placing poor families out on the desert where they can wear away their lives toiling for the money-lenders—anything but opening to Use the richest empire of Idle speculative acres, oil wells, coal beds, iron and all the other mineral deposits; over which Idle men tramp in search of work; which millions of slum dwellers are forbidden to build homes on or

cultivate; which if left free to the crowded hungry people would amply provision the Allies and quickly win the war!

The extent of this unused domain is partly told in the speech of Warren G. Harding of Ohio in the United States Senate:

Vast quantities of good farming land near the best markets in the world are not cultivated. In New England there are 30,000,000 acres of unused land that might be growing crops. There are 35,000,000 acres in the Middle states that might be farmed, but which are lying idle. In the Pacific Coast states there are 180,000,000 acres of unused but usable land. In all 500,000,-000 acres or thereabouts are lying idle, to say nothing of that which is inadequately farmed.

But this is not all. The suburban land, the platted blocks and lots inside and immediately surrounding ten thousand cities are uncounted. In crowded New York City (Manhattan Borough) there are still 75,000 vacant lots. Los Angeles has 52,000 idle platted lots within the old city limits—nine thousand acres devoted to bill boards and tin cans!

EVERY IDLE ACRE A NATIONAL ENEMY

All this is very pleasing and useful to—Germany!—in this hour when food will win, or lose, the war. These idle acres are the increasing strength of Germany, the Hohenzollern hope of being able to wear out the Allies and gain a favorable peace—of starving the world to Prussian domination!

Twenty Million of these idle acres are in California, most of them possible for cultivation twelve months of the year—twenty million enemies of the United States—twenty million friends of Germany inside the state of California! For it has been publicly declared, and no one can deny, that every idle acre for which there is a willing worker, is an enemy of the Republic.

Every one of these twenty million idle acres would be quickly put to use if some dog-in-the-manger speculator didn't have a sign on it—"Keep Off or Pay Me Toll." A million families would rush to California to build homes and cultivate farms—a million rent-racked and poverty-driven people already in California would build homes and raise food—were these signs taken down.

These signs will go down in November and land speculation be a thing of the past in California, by enactment of the single tax amendment, if the people have a chance to vote on its merits; if Prussian-profiteering interests—they are equally treasonable and work hand-in-glove to weaken the United States and strengthen Germany—if these interests do not confuse the question and hide its real intent; if the falsehoods and quibbles of the Anti Single Tax plotters to keep down food production are exposed to every voter.

To this end The Great Adventure dedicates its every energy and spends every penny received—and presents now Exhibit No. 1, as follows:

SINGLE TAX POPAGANDA TO BE FOUGHT

Real Estate Men Join in Effort to Overcome Campaign Made by National Single Tax Body—Half a Million Dollars Raised With Which to Carry California for Henry George's Idea.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 24.—Unalterable determination to wage battle against the single taxers, was announced yesterday by the Anti-Single Tax Association of California. The Association sees in the renewed energies of the single tax advocates a challenge that must be met.

The opponents of the Henry George idea are headed by Albert E. Kern as president, with W. L. Atkinson, Francis Cutting and Fred S. Moody as vice-presidents. Leslie E. Burks is secretary. The Executive Committee consists of Albert E. Kern, A. L. Harrigan, Elmer I. Rowell, E. T. Osborn, W. L. Atkinson and Carl C. Plehn. On the board of directors are the following: San Francisco, Charles H. Crocker, E. L. Hoag, A. L. Harrigan, Albert E. Kern, W. C. Murdoch Jr., John McGaw, E. T. Osborn, Elmer I. Rowell and I. N. Rosecrans; Oakland, W. J. Laymance; Sacramento, D. W. Carmichael; Stockton, Francis Cutting; Santa Rosa, J. A. Barham; Salina, J. R. Hebborn; Woodland, H. S. Maddox; Pacific Grove, Edward Berwick; San Jose, J. L. Atkinson.

President Kern, in his annual report just filed, states that the single taxers of the country have centered on California as the most fruitful soil for the adoption of their plan of taxation. He claims that \$500,000 for campaigning can be raised by the single tax proponents, and adds:

"With this great flood of money coming into the State for this purpose at this particular time when our thoughts are directed to winning the war, it would seem to me that we are facing a greater danger of being defeated than ever before. It is at such strenuous times as these that a propaganda of this sort can most easily be put into effect. We cannot afford to take a chance. We must fight them with their own weapons thru a continuation of our campaign of education thru pamphlets, thru the public press, and thru speakers on the public platform."

Under glaring headlines this appeared in the daily press. Fear is its keynote. It tacitly admits that single tax can be carried this year and frantically bids for the banks and the brokers to rally against it. Will they "rally" as they did in 1916 and spend upwards of a million dollars against The Great Adventure campaign fund of \$11,000?

The issue is different now. Then it was a matter of personal interest to deceive the people. This year the issue is Germany or the Allies!—food, or its lack!—patriotism or treason!

Will the patriotic bankers and brokers of California who so generously invested their money in Liberty Bonds now help Germany prolong the war, give aid and comfort to the alien enemy by lessening the food supply of the United States?

They know that single tax means a free and open earth—they proclaimed it in their Anti campaign of 1916. They know that food can only

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be produced on land that is open to use. They know that Free land in California means plenty of Food!

We shall know shortly who are the Junkers of California.

President Kern "claims that \$500,000 can be raised by the single tax proponents" for the California campaign. We hope he is right, in which case we will refund \$400,000 before the campaign really opens, for we have no business with more than \$100,000 and would not accept it.

Money will not open the hearts of men; it closes them. Money will not awaken manhood and patriotism in its highest sense—and only these can open the land!

Yet we live in a world where nothing can be done without money. We should have \$100,000 for the campaign—to fight our white Truth thru the poison-gas mists of Prussian-profiteerism that will try to befog the real issue—of Free Men on Free Land and Abundant Food Production!

T. A. ROBINSON SUCCEEDS THE LATE HERMAN KUEHN

At the meeting of the Campaign Committee on the 16th T. A. Robinson was unanimously chosen to succeed our late and deeply beloved friend Herman Kuehn as Treasurer of The Great Adventure in California. Mr. Robinson is one of the old-line single-taxers, retired from active business for several years—but as young and eager as ever for the fray of the Big Thing. He was a fire insurance adjuster, latterly with the Royal Insurance Company. He has peculiar qualifications for his new task and, fortunately, is able, and of course willing, to serve without salary or remuneration of any kind. He will receipt for your next remittance which, if it comes soon, will help the united singletaxers of California, reach the ballot with even more thousands of signatures to spare than we had in 1916.

Dollars to ENACT Single Tax

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to the Immediate production of Food and Supplies, count me in for \$_____ herewith

\$_____ weekly } until the State Election
\$_____ monthly } November 5, 1918

Name. _____

Address. _____

The fellowship
of regular con-
tributions is
better than a
lump sum and
a long silence.

336.05

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Vol. 2

APRIL 6, 1918

No. 12

Food Production the Supreme Need!

ABOVE all private interests is the supreme need of an open earth on which to raise Food for the allied armies and peoples.

On the United States rests the burden of the war.

Our troops—rushed to France—will drive back the German line; in the training camps here they are only “eating their heads off,” they are so many more millions of non-producers to feed.

A million more United States troops would now be in France but for the lack of ships to carry them.

Chiefly food speculation has held back ship building.

Food has been so high that the workmen have had to strike again and again to get wages enough to feed themselves and families.

American food speculators, land gamblers, and profiteers are the real enemies of the Republic on this side the Atlantic—sapping the life blood of the nation, Keeping Down Food Production, holding back the progress of the war—giving aid and comfort to the foreign foe.

Only American troops—in France!—not at home here—can win this war! and the only reason they are not now in France is an idle earth closed to production.

If the land were open to food production, and closed to a million idle speculators, food would be so plentiful and cheap that ship building, provisioning, and equipment could proceed with lightning speed.

In war time the keynote of success is Efficiency, and back of all efficiency is quick, plenty, cheap Food!

Why is not Food, in this hour of world peril, “a drug on the market” in the United States? We have the land and the labor—large surpluses of both—and both idle! There are Five Hundred Million idle fertile acres in the United States—those are the figures given in the United States Senate, and they do not include the idle city lots and suburban tracts—they are Five Hundred Million good farming acres. And everywhere there are

Idle and often starving people on or near this idle land. There are at least a Million Rich Idlers whose wealth comes directly from land speculation or from high prices that could only be enforced by holding the source of supplies out of use. There are at least a Million poor idlers or non-producers who are forcibly kept off these Five Hundred Million Idle Fertile Acres!

And the nation's need is Food!

This is the Republic's critical hour—political democarcy itself hangs in the balance! Shall the world be ruled by Prussianism, or be made safe for Democracy?

Food will decide the issue. Shall we open our waiting acres to food production—or keep them idle to fatten the profiteers and strengthen Germany?

This is the question of the hour—there's no use talking about anything else until it is settled one way or the other. Food will win the war, and our land is closed to its production. Five hundred million acres (admittedly, and much more no doubt) are held idle for speculation!—so that a million rich idlers can live in luxury!

Food and commodity prices soaring higher every day!

Poverty increasing even as wages rise.

Wages rise 20 per cent—food and clothing rise 80 per cent!

And the Source of them lying idle!

And we must rush millions of troops to France!

We haven't food enough to feed our own people—a million of them are on the edge of starvation—many thousands dying for lack of food and fuel and warm clothing—

And a million broken, discouraged, hungry men who can't find work enough to feed themselves—on five hundred million idle fertile acres!

Germany and Austria have all their land in Use!—and All their poor people, and even most of the privileged classes, are working! Germany and Austria are Using the Source of their food and supplies.

Most of ours lies Idle—creating an idle rich and an idle poor class. These millions of idle men and acres are the deadliest enemies of the Republic, giving more substantial aid to the kaiser than all his spies.

That German money is circulating here to pay for Prussian intrigue—to blow up munition works, foment labor troubles, and keep down food production—is common newspaper talk. How much of such money will be used against the California People's War Measure to open twenty million idle acres to immediate food production?

Surely no other kind of money—in this hour of national peril—will be spent in plotting to keep these twenty million idle acres closed?

This is the hour of sacrifice, when the millions do willingly, and Everybody must, lay their private desires and personal interests on the altar of the Common Good.

Neither class nor individual advantage count now. Autocracy or Democracy is the issue, and Food will settle it. We have the courage, the devotion, the idealism, the endurance, the daring, and the willingness of the people to sacrifice. Shall it all go for naught for lack of Food?

What "interests" is the Los Angeles Times serving when it prints:

BEWARE!—SINGLE TAXERS IN NEW ATTACK

Henry George Theorists Are On the Job Again—Seek Place On Fall Ballot For Vicious Nostrum—Opponents, However, Certain Of Another Victory.

The single tax—Henry George's original theory—is to be proposed again in California at the next general election, and Los Angeles is now headquarters for The Great Adventure movement. Single-taxers from far and near have gathered in this city to fight for their measure, which they claim is a panacea for all evils in the tax line. Single tax has been beaten at nearly every general election held here for many years.

The advocates of the single tax measure announced yesterday, from their headquarters in the Tajo Building, that they have already secured enough signatures for their initiative measure to place it on the ballot again in November, but they are still securing signatures and have active workers on some of the principal streets of the city. They declare they have secured over 100,000 signatures thus far and will file the petition probably in May.

The decision of the single taxers to enter again the fight in California was not unlooked for, for it was known that all the efforts of the national organization had been concentrated on this State since the defeat of the measure in 1916. Practically the same measure as was voted on and defeated at the last election is proposed. It provides for all taxes to be raised on land values, and exemption of improvements of every nature whatsoever. The fight will be along the same lines as last year and the single taxers are said to have raised a fund of \$100,000 with which to prosecute their campaign.

In the meantime, the anti-single-taxers have not been idle. The People's Anti-Single Tax League, which was formed during the last campaign and which successfully fought the single taxers, has been retained as a permanent organization, and offices are established at 624 Citizens' National Bank Building, with Phillip D. Wilson in charge.

Officers of the organization are E. P. Clark, president; W. W. Mines, vice-president; W. E. McVay, treasurer; Philip D. Wilson, secretary, and the directors include some of the most prominent men in Los Angeles and in cities throughout Southern California. Already the campaign against the measure has been started by circularizing tax-payers and pointing out the dangers of the single tax.

The organization work is well under way and committees are being formed in every city south of the Tehachepi. The northern part of the State also has an organization, which is known as the Anti-Single Tax Association, with offices at 530 Mills Building, San Francisco. The northern and southern organizations are working in conjunction.

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This misinformation was sent out by the Anti Single Tax League and appeared in most of the Southern California newspapers under neutral captions, only the Times headlines showing editorial spleen.

The young man who doubtless compiled it came into our headquarters under an assumed name pretending to be deeply interested. He was told that we needed 100,000 signatures or more and were rapidly securing them; that we hoped to get a \$100,000 campaign fund, and that we felt sure of winning this time. He asked numberless questions, which were frankly answered. Repeatedly he wanted to know whether the application of single tax wouldn't result in confusion and violence. He was told that single tax would stop the confusion and violence now prevailing and bring harmony among men.

What he wrote is a fair sample of Anti Single Tax misrepresentation.

MISS FLAHERTY DRAFTED AS SECRETARY

Answering an imperative call of the campaign committee, shortly after the death of Herman Kuehn early in March, Miss Viva Flaherty gave up her numerous activities at Grand Rapids, Mich., and arrived here April 2d to become general secretary of The Great Adventure in California. She comes as Herman came, without questioning, on the same terms—and will devote all her splendid capabilities to the rearing of his monument—the Enactment of Single Tax. Miss Flaherty was editor of the Civic Journal, manager of the open forum, and the active spirit in much of the radical and humanitarian work at Grand Rapids. The friends there were reluctant to part with her. She has been a militant singletaxer for many years; she comes from a family of singletaxers, and is glad of the opportunity to have an active part in the struggle for its application.

Dollars to ENACT Single Tax

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Vol. 2

APRIL 13, 1918

No. 13

PUSH BACK THE GERMAN TIDE!

Our answer to the challenge of Germany shall appear in the utter sacrifice and self-forgetfulness with which we shall give all that we love and all that we have to redeem the world and make it fit for free men like ourselves to live in. This now is the meaning of all that we do.

—WOODROW WILSON

DO you see that long black line of iron helmets, steel guns, and poison gases advancing day by day toward Paris and the Channel ports? Don't be content with scanning the newspaper headlines—they are mostly camouflage; they are like the whistle of the boy in the dark. Read the official war reports from London, Paris, and Berlin.

Don't be lulled to a false sense of security by the iterations of Germany's losses—they are terrible enough—but the line keeps advancing, and still Germany could mass three million more troops to close up any gaps that the Allies can make.

That German wall of hate and steel is nearing America. It will never cross the water—it needn't. If it reaches Paris, Calais, and Dunkirk, separating the British and French troops Europe will be in the grip of the mailed fist and Wall street will foreclose its mortgage on the land, labor, and people of the United States.

When all Europe is under the iron heel of Militarism all North America will be vassal to Plutocracy. Kings and thrones will revel high in Europe, and every liberal, radical, human-freedom movement in America will be suppressed. The profiteers working thru the senate then could defeat Woodrow Wilson, whose term has but two years to run at best.

Reaction and conservatism will be in the saddle, for how many enslaving decades—who can guess? Every hope of equal liberty, of the abolition of poverty, will be set back half a century. The youngest eyes that

read these lines will never see the end of war or the end of human beings exploited and degraded for the ambition and the luxury of Greed.

With the mailed fist drawing mile by mile nearer Paris and Calais, it were blind, mad, criminal neglect and foolishness for every friend of man not to look this possibility squarely in the face. It is more than a possibility. It is a huge black cloud already breaking on Western Europe, drenching the Picardy plains with torrents of human blood—advancing, advancing!

Only American troops rushing by the million to stay the German line, and leadershipped by such a man as Woodrow Wilson—a man who carries his human ideals and aspirations down into the battlefield—can save the world from the twin monsters, militarism and plutocracy.

Now, in the midst of Action, it is time to think a little as we Act. It is the cosmic hour for Action, but unwise action, over-confidence in waving flags and beating drums, strutting braggadocio, six-inch headlines, calling the enemy Huns, Boches—this frothy yellow press vituperation will not push back that German line!

Nor will bond issues and thrift stamps. Buy Liberty Bonds and War Saving Stamps by all means, buy them quickly and unstintedly—they are the necessity of the moment. Pay the war taxes cheerfully, and unless you are very rich and a profiteer at heart, you will not try to evade your income tax.

Uncle Sam needs the money, now more than ever before—now more than ever again, let us hope. But suppose we gave it all to him. Suppose all the people and even Wall Street stripped themselves of all their money, or the lion's share of it—would that push back the German line?

If every coin of gold and silver and every treasury note in the United States were heaped up before President Wilson on the White House lawn—Would that drive back the Prussian wall?

Or if it were all baled up in a dozen ship holds and sent across the Atlantic, would it stay the world curse of Militarism?

Soldiers can't eat money, can't fight with coins or greenbacks. Soldiers need food, clothing, equipment, ships to carry them, tents to house them, blankets, tools—and fighting implements of iron and steel—and not one of these is produced by or from money. Cash is but a medium of exchange. We use it to make trading easy and simple. We don't eat it or wear it, and when there is a real shortage of it Uncle Sam has only to print some paper or stamp some more metal discs to produce all that is needed. A few rich people have been hoarding up this medium of exchange, laying it away in bank vaults to make good the bonds and mortgages they hold on human labor. That's why Uncle Sam is now so short

of money. There's plenty of it—pour it out now for it is the nation's need of the moment. Buy a thousand dollar Liberty Bond—then send a hundred dollars to The People's War Measure in California, or send what you can, if only a dollar or a dime, and send it Now, because every dollar now is worth two dollars after we have securely reached the ballot. Send it to gain 100,000 or more signatures needed by which alone, under the law, the electors may vote Yes or No on the question of opening the Twenty Million Idle Acres of this state, and its unbounded wealth of mineral and oil—open them wide to the Immediate and Unlimited production of the food, clothing, ships and equipment without which, in unstinted supply, Uncle Sam's troops are powerless even to leave this country—lacking which that hundred-mile German wall of iron helmets and belching guns will as surely close in on Paris and Calais as Hoover spoke the solemn truth when he said—Food Will Win the War!!

Hooverize on food, by all means. Even some of us poor people who live from hand to mouth eat too much—when we can get it. A little voluntary stinting won't hurt; it strengthens the will. Save on food—it's the immediate necessity.

But shall we Save food and keep its Source closed to production—keep these Twenty Million Idle Acres locked away from human labor so that a handful of landlords, food speculators, and real estate gamblers may keep their financial resources locked up in Unused natural resources, to escape the War Income Tax and reap the Unearned Increment?

Will the people of California vote to do that?

Not if they know it. There isn't a community of people anywhere in the United States that would knowingly vote to keep their idle acres closed to production in this critical hour when Democracy and Militarism are in the scales of Fate.

Only the profiteers of California are now in opposition to The Peoples War Measure. They will spend a million dollars or more to spread Mis-information among the people about this simple easy plan of opening the land to production.

Will You help The Great Adventure keep the Truth before them? Will you help Now secure the needed 100,000 signatures to the initaitive demand?

And thus, in the ever-memorable words of President Wilson—thus our answer to the challenge of Germany—

... "shall appear in the utter sacrifice and self-forgetfulness with which we shall give all that we love and all that we have to redeem the world and make it fit for free men like ourselves to live in. This now is the meaning of all that we do."

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203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

Single Tax a War Issue

(From Los Angeles EVENING RECORD)

If America and the allies lose the war it will be because they lack food and supplies.

This proposition is advanced by Luke North and thousands of other single taxers of California who are beginning another campaign to "free the land from the grip of monopoly." They plan to write into the laws of the state a provision which they claim will put the state's idle labor upon its idle acres and boom production to the uttermost.

They want 100,000 signatures by May 1 for their initiative petition.

"Food will win the war—conscript the idle acres," is the slogan of the single taxers.

North declares there is unemployment on every side, in addition to thousands in the state eking out existences at nonproductive white collar jobs.

The unemployed and the nonproductively employed would be glad to get onto the land and produce food, he says, if they were given the opportunity.

Single tax, he claims, will open the land to them.

The People's War Measure---to open the wonderful natural resources of California to the quick production of Food:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

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Food Will Win the War Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land Don't Hog It!

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MAY 11, 1918

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MAY 11, 1918

No. 14

THE CALIFORNIA LAND HOGS

PEOPLE'S ANTI SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

MRS. KATE C. GARTZ,
Altadena, Cal.

Los Angeles, Cal., March 20th, 1918.

DEAR MADAM: Do you know there is grave danger of a Single Tax law being adopted at the next general election, unless our property owners wake up to a serious situation?

Do you also know that the Single Taxers have a fund said to be in excess of \$100,000 with which they are extending their propaganda throughout the State?

Do you also know that the proponents of Single Tax are circulating their initiative petition in *your* city and throughout the State, and that they have already secured many thousands of signatures of voters? Their claim is that they can carry California by switching only 70,000 voters in the last election.

You Do Know doubtless, that in the event the Single Taxers are successful, property values will be so impaired in California that they will be practically worthless, and *your property* will probably suffer confiscation.

The Single Taxers have raised a cry of "Open California's Twenty Million Idle Acres to Raising Food, Mines and Oil Wells to Use—Feed and Equip the Allies, Win the War." Their cry is being heeded by thousands of thoughtless people throughout the State who are leaning toward this seemingly patriotic, but immeasurably false appeal. [See top page 3.] They are making supreme effort of their lives in this State, by enlisting the aid of the entire National organization, and they say they are going to *win at any cost*.

The People's Anti Single Tax League is conducting the campaign against this iniquitous measure throughout California and is sending out literature and working up sentiment all over the State against this proposed law which menaces prosperity in California.

We need money and we need it badly to carry on a campaign of education NOW. The people of California must be aroused to the danger that confronts them and if we would defeat the proposed Single Tax Measure, the work must be done long in advance of the election. It is estimated our campaign will cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000 and we must raise funds at once.

For your own protection we ask you to send us \$50 by return mail, for this cause, and also to call at this office and help with your suggestions, or otherwise. Make check payable to People's Anti Single Tax League, and mail to 624 Citizens Nat'l Bank Bldg. Yours very truly, PHILLIP D. WILSON, Secretary.



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Not Interested in Their Selfishness

PEOPLE'S ANTI SINGLE TAX LEAGUE,
Los Angeles, California.

ALTADENA, CAL., April 1, 1918.

DEAR SIRS: I am in receipt of your letter of March 25th, asking me for a contribution of fifty dollars for the purpose of preventing The Great Adventure from carrying the state of California next fall. You tell me that in the event of the measure being successful, property values will be so impaired in California that they will be practically worthless, and my property will probably suffer confiscation.

Permit me to say that is exactly what I want. The price of property in California is fictitiously high at present, which has the effect of driving people away from the state. You call yourselves a "people's league." What "people" do you represent? You are a body of selfish property owners, having but one purpose in life, to make money out of those who come here to settle.

California is a state of land-sharks, and we want it opened up to all the people, instead of being held for speculation. Your Anti Single Tax League is as sensible as was the Anti Suffrage League—and will be as successful. Open your eyes and get ready for the democracy that is coming. We are not interested in your selfishness.

Your letter reminds me that I have forgotten my duty to make a contribution to The Great Adventure, and I am accordingly sending them my check for fifty dollars.

Yours very truly, KATE CRANE GARTZ.

—Reprinted from UPTON SINCLAIR's for May.

A Land Owner Willing to Play Fair

MR. PHILLIP D. WILSON,
*Secretary People's Anti Single Tax League,
 Los Angeles, California.*

TORONTO, ONT., April 18, 1918.

DEAR SIR: A circular letter with your signature attached has come to me, in which it is stated that if the Single Tax measure now up in California is carried, private property will probably suffer confiscation.

I am an owner of land in the State, and I am quite aware that the purpose of the measure is to take the annual value of the land for public revenue; that is to say, the speculative value which arises from the presence and activity of population. But this value is not justly my property. What I own is the land, and my title to this will not be impaired in the least. I can still keep and use it as a site for a house, which I can occupy myself or rent to somebody else. I will, of course, lose the speculative profit I might have made if present conditions continued, but though my selfish interests may suffer to some extent, I admit the entire justice of the People taking for public use the value that belongs to them because they have created it. The Single Tax does not touch *property*, properly so called, at all.

You are an intelligent man, but you belong to one or other of two classes:

1. Those who do not understand the Single Tax at all, or
2. Those who do understand it but are opposing it in bad faith, being impelled by selfish interests as speculators.

My view is that in this hour of peril it is a vital necessity to open the land everywhere to production, and this the Single Tax policy will assuredly do.

Yours very truly, J. W. BENGOUGH.

What the People's (?) Anti Single Tax League Calls an
"Immeasurably False Appeal":



DO YOUR BIT TO HELP THE BOYS AT THE FRONT

People's War Measure

To open California's Twenty Million Idle Acres to
raising Food, mines and oil wells to Use--feed
and equip the Allies, Win the War!

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR Sign Single Tax
Initiative to Free
the Land to Production. Get your neighbors to sign

Headquarters 203 Tajo-Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles. Call, Write or Phone Main 4905 (Over)



COME IN AND SIGN

**These are the People (officers and directors)
of "People's" Anti Single Tax League**

Are their interests your interests?

- E. P. CLARK, holds large tracts of Idle Land; street railway magnate.
W. W. MINES, ex-President L. A. Realty Board.
W. E. McVAY—First Vice President Guaranty Trust and Savings Bank.
PHILIP D. WILSON—real estate operator; officer Realty Board.
D. A. HAMBURGER—owner department store and down-town real estate.
HARRY R. CALLENDER—mortgages; big office building.
E. A. GROW—Manager San Bernardino Abstract and Title Company.
H. S. KNEEDLER—Secretary San Bernardino Chamber of Commerce.
PERCY H. GOODWIN—San Diego real estate operator.
HARRY H. CULVER—Land Manager for P. E. Ry.; miles of Idle Acres.
HARRY LEE MARTIN, his firm holds about \$10,000,000 of land mortgages.
OLIVER P. ADAMS—Idle Acres in Inglewood and Antelope Valley.
SIDNEY McHARG—Calexico capitalist.
FRANK MILLER, hotel; fought woman's 8-hour law to Supreme Court.
JOHN P. FISKE—real estate operator at Redlands.
GEORGE W. McCOMBER—real estate, Santa Barbara; Standard Oil.
C. C. CHAPMAN—large land holder at Brawley.
PHILO JONES—Brawley City Recorder, politician, investment broker.
W. I. HOLLINGSWORTH—Hollingsworth building; real estate broker.
MOTLEY H. FLINT—Vice President Los Angeles Trust and Savings Bank.
WILLIS H. BOOTH—republican candidate for U. S. Senator; banker.
LEO YOUNGWORTH—republican politician, formerly U. S. Marshal.
H. S. MCKEE—Vice President Merchants' National Bank.
OSCAR MUELLER—Director Chamber Commerce; corporation attorney.
OSCAR LAWLER—corporation attorney, ex-U. S. attorney.
JOHN G. MOTT—attorney, Secretary San Isidora Ranch Co.
HARRY CHANDLER—Manager Los Angeles Times.
J. F. SARTORI—President Security Trust and Savings Bank.
HAROLD JANSS—Janss Investment Co., real estate.

The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

From Hon. James G. Maguire

Former Congressman, ex-Superior Judge of San Francisco, friend and associate of Henry George.

MR. LUKE NORTH,
Los Angeles, California:

SAN FRANCISCO, April 30, 1918.

DEAR SIR: Being a member of the Equity Tax League, as you know, and up to the time of the withdrawal of its proposed Constitutional Amendment, a firm supporter of its measure, I have now decided to give my support, whole heartedly, to The Great Adventure amendment, as I did two years ago, and I hope, with even a better result, although the result two years ago was by no means disappointing to me. In fact I had long ago decided to support both the Equity League and The Great Adventure amendments at the polls, for, indeed there is no inconsistency between them, the Great Adventure amendment simply going further, in the same direction, than that of the Equity League, now abandoned.

I cannot, and no other Single Taxer should, wait two years for the probable presentation of an Amendment to the Constitution providing for a partial application of the Single Tax, when the worst that can happen, as the result of giving support to an "all at once" Single Tax Amendment, is that its failure will postpone the reform for the same length of time.

Land monopoly, against which, alone, the Single Tax is directed, is merely a parasitic growth on society, having no useful, nor any economic, function whatever. It creates no values, but absorbs more than are necessary for the support of all our governments—federal, state and municipal. It is marvelous that it has been permitted to exist so long, especially when we consider that its economic worthlessness and its useless oppressiveness have been so well known for a century.

With best wishes for the success of your brave fight for the equal and inalienable right of mankind, in general, to the use of the God-given earth, I remain,

Very respectfully yours, JAMES G. MAGUIRE.

It was inadvertently stated in the April Everyman that Los Angeles contains two million idle acres. The truth is there are 56,000 vacant lots in the old city limits and about a million idle acres in the county. The error is deeply regretted—yet what is the moral and human difference? Single tax is not a matter of statistics, but of blood and suffering, of children defrauded, of men and women debased by—kaiserism—land monopoly.

Since the death of Herman Kuehn the work of corresponding secretary has fallen chiefly upon Lona Ingham Robinson, and still remains there. Miss Viva Flaherty of Grand Rapids, who came here the first of April, was unable to assume the secretaryship.

Gerrit Johnson is sending out a third Great Adventure letter. Don't overlook it because it reaches you under penny stamp—the other two cents went into the signature fund.

Not enough money is in hand at this writing to pay all the expense of filing the Single Tax Initiative Demand at the end of May—yet we are all confident that it will be duly filed not later than May 31st, and that it will contain not less than 100,000 names. There will be a month or so left for a supplemental filing to make good any possible deficiency.

336.05
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Commerce

Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

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Vol. 2

MAY 18, 1918

No. 15

WE WANT NO PERSON IN THE UNITED STATES TO EAT LESS THAN IS REQUIRED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND FULL STRENGTH, FOR IN THIS EMERGENCY AMERICA REQUIRES EVERY ATOM OF THE PRODUCTIVE POWER OF OUR PEOPLE.—HERBERT HOOVER, U. S. Food Administrator.

THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS IN WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CAN GET WHAT IT NEEDS TO SAVE ITS LIFE; THAT IS BY GREATER PRODUCTION AND BY LESS CONSUMPTION.—DWIGHT W. MORROW, international banker and director of New Jersey War Savings committee.

ANY MAN WHO INTERFERES WITH THE WORK OF PRODUCTION IN AMERICA IS AIDING THE KAISER AND IS ACTING AS A TRAITOR TO THIS COUNTRY AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.—From a recent address of GEORGE W. SIMMONS, director American Red Cross.

Leslie M. Shaw Opposes the People's War Measure to Open 20,000,000 Idle Acres to Production

[Special to Los Angeles Tribune]

ONTARIO, Cal., May 6.—That every dollar in America is being undermined by the campaign of the singletax advocates, who are increasing their following with alarming rapidity, and that unless the property owners rise and protect themselves they will have no property, was the declaration tonight of the Hon. Leslie M. Shaw, former Governor of Iowa and former Secretary of the Treasury, in a stirring address before 150 representative men of Ontario and Upland at a dinner given to mark the successful finish of the Third Liberty Loan drive.

Mr. Shaw asserted in all seriousness that conditions in North Dakota today where the Nonpartisan Legue has gotten the upper hand, are far worse than conditions in chaotic Russia. He referred to the cleverness of the single taxers in California, where they have centered their national campaign, in appealing to the **patriotism of the ignorant** in endeavoring to carry their "obnoxious" single tax amendment to the constitution with the promise that California's untilled land will be cultivated as a "win the war" measure.

Mr. Shaw appealed to the people to arouse themselves to the danger of the single taxers' campaign and urged them not to fiddle while Rome burned.

Philip D. Wilson, secretary of the People's Anti-Single Tax League, warned of the danger of the single tax measure carrying through the apathy of the public, who could not conceive of such a thing. He assured the meeting that the danger was present and real.

The meeting voted to organize to fight single tax.

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Single Tax Appeals to Intelligent Patriotism

HON. LESLIE M. SHAW,
care Anti Single Tax League.

LOS ANGELES, May 14, 1918.

DEAR SIR: According to press reports of your Ontario speech you are misinformed on single tax. It does not appeal to the "patriotism of the ignorant," as you say, but particularly to the intelligent, who understand that food comes from land and that it cannot come from acres held out of use for speculation.

It appeals to your discerning, thoughtful patriotism that makes you aware of the close connection between food shortage and land monopoly—to your love of Democracy, your willingness to forgo personal interests, your readiness to sacrifice possessions or profit or even life to strengthen the Republic against the prussian foe. It appeals to your loyalty, not in mere words but in deeds.

On behalf of at least 260,000 single tax workers and voters in this state the council of The Great Adventure single tax movement invites you to consider its claims dispassionately and point out, if you can, wherein land speculation, monopoly of the source of supplies, holding millions of acres out of use for private gain, is not weakening to the United States and helpful to Germany.

We are not advocating single tax merely to prove a theory or demonstrate a new system; we are seriously urging it as the only way to solve the dangerous food problem, to strengthen the army and the people of the nation at their weakest point, by opening the twenty million idle acres of California, its unused mines and oil wells, to the immediate and unlimited production of necessary supplies.

We are not asking or caring whether this will be favorable to your interests as landlord and speculator, and we expect you to examine the issue fairly and impersonally. If you know of a better and more effective way to help the nation in its hour of greatest need, tell us—we will listen.

You are quoted as saying that "every dollar in America is being undermined by the campaign of the single tax advocates"—but you do not specify. Tell us how they are being undermined. We will listen respectfully. We will debate that or any collateral issue with you in the public press or on the public platform at any time or place convenient to you.

The single tax will open the land to use. How will that impair the value of a dollar? By enormously increasing the number of individual land holders, will it not indeed enhance the value and the stability of every American dollar? It will make the dollar buy more food and supplies and at least lay the foundation for a social system under which no one will have the privilege or power, as at present, to monopolize and hoard the dollars.

The aim of single tax is to end the power of anyone to reap what he does not sow, or seize more than his just share of labor's produce; to establish fair dealing and "self-determination" among men; to "remove the economic barriers" by opening the natural opportunities for self-employment to all on equal terms—to feed and equip the Allies, win the war!

What "is obnoxious" about this? Are they loyal to the flag who oppose it?
Sincerely yours,

LUKE NORTH.



Patriotism or Profit?

The Great Adventure in California

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203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

Must Open Land to Pay Inheritance Tax

(From the Los Angeles Times of April 5, 1918)

Miller & Lux, reputed to be California's second corporation in point of size, practically the owners of the San Joaquin River for most of its length and owners of a good share of the Kern River with total land holdings in California estimated in value between \$40,000,000 and \$60,000,000, must break its ironclad rule and sell some of the best land it owns to pay the Federal and State inheritance tax.

Some 150,000 acres in Kern and King counties are to be thrown on the market. Just how much the inheritance tax will be is not known, but all are agreed it will not be less than \$2,000,000 nor more than \$6,000,000. One of Henry Miller's fundamental policies was never to sell his land.

"We will have to sell some of the best land we have to meet the inheritance tax," was the way David Brown, vice-president of the company, put it in San Francisco. "I don't know what prices are to be asked, but I do know that the land is either now irrigated or susceptible to irrigation and that it is all fine farming land."

For years Miller & Lux have been California's biggest farmers. They have operated on a scale so immense that no other California farmer or farming corporation could even hope to compare, but with all of their gigantic plans, company heads say they never have made a cent. Farming operations on a large scale are unprofitable, they assert.

For profit they have looked to the advance in values of their holdings, and it is this that caused Henry Miller to lay down the rule that has remained unbroken to this day, but must now be laid aside.

The Miller & Lux ranch holdings have been linked with the history of California since the days of '49. Henry Miller was born in Brackenheim, Germany, July 21, 1827. He died in his ninetieth year at the residence of his daughter, in Los Angeles, October 15, 1916.

When 20 years old he came to the United States, landing at New York. He became a butcher there. In 1849 he headed for California to participate in the gold rush, landing in San Francisco, where he became a butcher again.

In 1857 he took Charley Lux as a partner, and they began reaching out and buying land. They bought land, and more land. Once they owned 22,717 square miles, or 14,539,200 acres, in Nevada, Oregon and California.

If the inheritance tax will open to food production 150,000 acres of choice land and put \$50,000,000 into the state treasury Without Confusion, single tax will open 20,000,000 idle acres and put its rental value into the public treasuries of every town, city, and county Without Confusion—and without the necessity of taxing stores, homes, crops, furniture, automobiles, labor, and business. It will end speculation in, and monopoly of, the Source of Food, strengthen the Allies with unlimited supplies, *win the world war for Democracy!*

36.05

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Vol. 2

MAY 25, 1918

No. 16

(From the San Francisco Examiner.)

California Could Feed 30 Millions

[By the Associated Press]

WASHINGTON, May 16, 1917.—California can produce on her fertile fields one-third of the food the nation will need annually while the war lasts if sufficient labor is provided the farming interests. Members of Congress were so informed to-day in letters and telegrams from California business men and farmers urging immediate governmental steps to recruit labor.

The appeals sought to impress on Congress that the state has millions of acres of fertile land now unused, for intensified cultivation.

In Sacramento Valley alone there are more than 1,000,000 acres which could be made productive. Farm experts gave testimony that California has sufficient valley land to support 25,000,000 persons in plenty.

Land Speculation vs. the Administration

From the American Economic League, by Samuel Danziger.

AS MIGHT be expected, the movement to submit a single tax amendment to the people of California is being opposed. The opposition is organized under the name of "The People's Anti-Single Tax League." But the reasons given for this opposition are surprising. The League objects to the opening to use of 20,000,000 idle acres. It declares as "*seemingly patriotic, but immeasurably false*" the statement of the single taxers that to do this will help feed and equip the soldiers at the front. Does the Anti-Single Tax League know that in expressing itself in that way it is not challenging the single taxers alone, but President Wilson and other officials prominent in his administration who, since the outbreak of war have insisted on the necessity of putting vacant land to use and increasing the production of crops and other forms of wealth?

The appeal which the Anti-Single Tax League calls "*seemingly patriotic but immeasurably false*," is substantially the same as President Wilson put forth on April 15, 1917 when he declared it evident to every thinking man that "our industries must be made more prolific," that farmers should "omit no step that will increase the production of their land"; that young men and old alike should "turn in hosts to the farms and make certain that no pains and labor is lacking" and that "everyone who creates or cultivates a garden helps, and helps greatly, to solve the problem of the feeding of the nation."

The League denounces the Single Tax measure because it will take from land



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speculators the power to hold up workers who want to use their lands. It calls this "confiscation." Here again it is obstructing the plans of the administration. Secretary of the Interior Lane let it be known what respect is due the alleged rights of land speculators. In a public statement referring to a district containing 700,000 acres of idle lands, he said:

"THEY BELONG TO PRIVATE OWNERS, AND IF THEY DO NO UTILIZE THEIR PROPERTY THE TIME MAY NOT BE FAR OFF WHEN OUR NATIONAL NEEDS WILL REQUIRE CONFISCATION AND GOVERNMENT CULTIVATION. NO ONE IS ENTITLED TO THAT WHICH HE DOES NOT USE."

That last sentence applies as well to the owners of 20,000,000 unused acres in Secretary Lane's own state as it does to owners of similar lands elsewhere.

Then again in a letter to Congressman Taylor concerning a bill to stimulate food production, Secretary Lane declared the first step necessary to be "the securing of the right to use all such private land as is unused." Is the People's Anti-Single Tax League ready to declare Secretary Lane's statement as "*seemingly patriotic but immeasurably false*"?

Another prominent official who has urged forcing of vacant land into use is Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carl Vrooman, who says:

"WHAT WE NEED AND NEED BADLY IS A PROGRAM OF TAXATION WHICH, WITHOUT THROWING ADDITIONAL BURDENS ON THE BONA-FIDE FARMER, WILL PLACE LAND NOW IDLE WITHIN THE REACH OF MEN OF LIMITED MEANS WHO POSSESS THE AMBITION AND THE ABILITY TO CULTIVATE IT."

California Single Taxers are proposing such a tax measure as Assistant Secretary Vrooman declares to be the need of the hour. Many other officials could be quoted along the same line. Is the Anti-Single Tax League going to oppose them?

Extract from Report of State Commission on Land Colonization Showing Need for Single Tax on Land Values:

California has an immense area of fertile and unpeopled land. Only 11 million acres out of the 28 million acres of farm land are being cultivated. Comparatively few settlers are coming here, and many who came in recent years have left. Costly advertising and still more costly personal solicitations have not served to attract colonists. We have not found a single settler who, bringing with him only the limited capital accepted by state systems in other countries, has been able to pay for his land in the time agreed upon in his contract.

California Land Monopolist Willing to Open Idle Acres to Food Production

From the Fresno (Cal.) Labor News.

SPECULATION in land and high monopoly prices for land must be abolished if we are to lower the cost of living, increase food production, and provide land for our returning soldiers. This was the message carried to the farmers of the Northwest by William Kent, member of the Federal Tariff Commission and himself a practical farmer and stockman on a large scale.

Mr. Kent, one of the most influential and interesting figures at Washington, went to St. Paul to address a mass meeting of farmers as the representative of the Federal government. Discussing the land question, he said:

"Permit me for a moment to take up in this regard something that you must meet if you are going to create a movement of real democracy. The land question is a matter of the utmost importance. You can't raise your products cheaply on high-priced land, because **LAND MUST BE PAID FOR OUT OF THE PRODUCE OF THE LAND**.

"I wanted to offer a prize worth while for the best essay on the cost of producing a ham showing the portion of the cost of the ham due to land prices.

"I used to sell land out in Nebraska at twelve dollars and a half an acre, and at that time six crops of 20 cent corn would keep a farmer alive and pay for the land, but now it would take more than six crops of 75 cent corn to do the same thing.

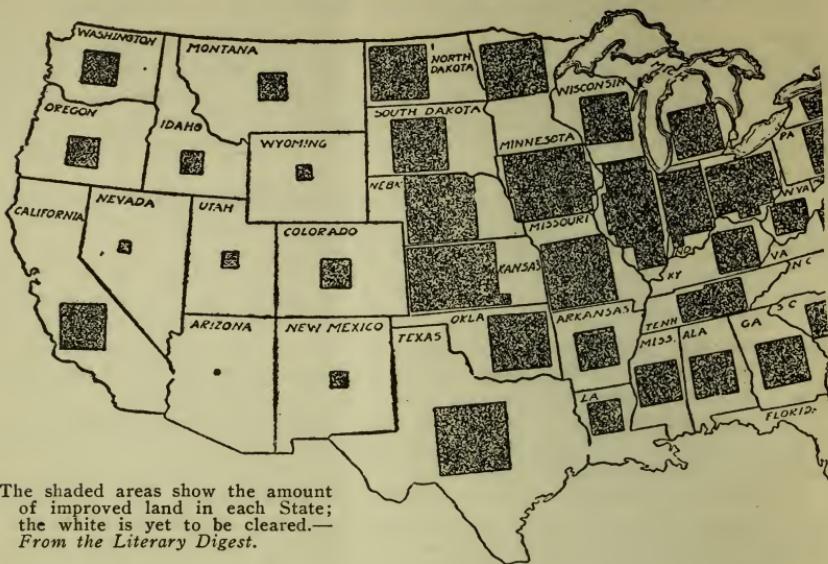
"Now all that falls back on the fellow that hasn't got any land. The cost of that ham is found in the cost of the feed that goes into the hog, and the cost of the land upon which the hog grows, and the fellow working in the city in the factory, he has no means of recouping that added charge. Take the prices of city real estate—the cost of these great alleys of overbuilt buildings, tremendous extravagances all of which has to rest upon the backs of those who are creating useful production.

"There isn't any more free land that is worth anything. When people get up as Senator Harding did a short time ago and talk glibly about putting the soldiers that return from the trenches back on the land, he will find that they are controlled privately, that there will be somebody owning the land that has any value, and that they will put a price on that land in accordance with the demand for it. If a man were told now to go west and grow up with the country, he probably would keep going until he dropped off at Seal Rocks or at the Cliff house in the Pacific ocean and wet his feet. There isn't any more free land. Some way or another, we have got to recognize the fact that while permanent tenure of land is good, and tends to the permanence of society, we have got to recognize the fact that that tenure should depend upon the highest possible use of that land, and society should demand that there should be no fee simple title, whereby a man is entitled to ruin his land and leave it barren. *There should be no chance for unproductive land speculation.* I can talk here feelingly because I have had a land mania that I have inherited from my ancestors away back, and I have bought and sold and speculated in land in about all quarters of the Union; and it's too easy—it's taking marbles from children. It's a contemptible way of making money; but I just took this on incidentally, thinking that somebody was going to make money, and I might spend it better than the other fellow?

The Great Adventure in California

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

Over 400 Million Acres That Might Be Growing Food



The shaded areas show the amount
of improved land in each State;
the white is yet to be cleared.—
From the Literary Digest.

PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE, for the November Election, to Open California's 20 Million Idle Acres:

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 1/4, 1 1/2 and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to the Immediate production of Food and Supplies, count me in for \$_____ herewith

\$_____ weekly } until the State Election
\$_____ monthly } November 5, 1918

Name _____

Address _____

The fellowship
of regular con-
tributions is
better than a
lump sum and
a long silence.

336.05 -

Commerce

G.R.

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Vol. 2

JUNE 8, 1918

No. 17

SINGLE TAX—What It Is and Why We Urge It

By HENRY GEORGE

"The Prophet of San Francisco," author of "Progress and Poverty,"
"The Land Question," "Social Problem," etc., etc.

WE propose to banish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it.

What we propose is not a tax on real estate, for real estate includes improvements. Nor is it a tax on land, for we would not tax all land, but only land having a value irrespective of its improvements, and would tax that in proportion to that value.

Our plan involves the imposition of no new tax, since we already tax land values. We have only to abolish all other taxes, leaving only that which now falls on the value of the bare land, increasing that so as to take as nearly as may be the whole of economic rent, or what is sometimes styled the "unearned increment of land values."

That the value of the land alone would suffice to provide all needed public revenues there is no doubt.

From the Single Tax we may expect these advantages:

1. It would dispense with a whole army of tax gatherers and other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of what is taken from the people, while by making government simpler and cheaper, it would tend to make it purer. It would get rid of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery, and corruption, which lead men into temptation, and which tax what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies out-of-doors and cannot be removed, and its value is the most readily ascertained of all values, the tax to which we would resort can be collected with the minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

2. It would enormously increase the production of wealth—

(a) By the removal of the burdens that now weigh upon industry and thrift.

The tenant, not the owner, pays the tax on the office building. On all rented property the tax is added to rent. If we tax houses, there will be fewer and poorer houses; if we tax machinery, there will be less machinery; if we tax trade, there will be less trade; if we tax capital, there will be less capital; if we tax savings, there will be less savings. All taxes therefore that we should abolish are those that repress industry and lessen wealth.

But if we tax land values, there will be no less land.

(b) On the contrary, the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available by industry, since it makes it more difficult for owners of valuable land which they themselves do not care to use to hold it idle for a larger future price. While the abolition of taxes on labor and the products of labor would free the active element of production, the taking of land values by taxation would free the passive element by destroying speculative land values and preventing the holding out of use of land needed for use. If any one will but look around today and see the unused or but half-used land, the idle labor, the unemployed or poorly employed capital, he will get some idea of how enormous would be the production of wealth were all the forces of production free to engage.

(c) The taxation of the processes and products of labor on one hand, and the insufficient taxation of land values on the other, produce an unjust distribution of wealth which is building up in the hands of a few fortunes more monstrous than the world has ever before seen, while the masses of our people are steadily becoming relatively poorer. These taxes necessarily fall on the poor more heavily than on the rich; by increasing prices, they necessitate a larger capital in all businesses, and consequently give an advantage to large capitals; and they give, and in some cases are designed to give, special advantages and monopolies to combinations and trusts. On the other hand, the insufficient taxation of land values enables men to make large fortunes by land speculation and the increase in ground values—fortunes which do not represent any addition by them to the general wealth of the community, but merely the appropriation by some of what the labor of others creates.

This unjust distribution of wealth develops on the one hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too rich, and on the other hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too poor. It deprives men of capital and opportunities which would make them more efficient producers. It thus greatly diminishes production.

(d) The unjust distribution which is giving us the hundred-fold millionaire on the one side and the tramp and pauper on the other, generates thieves, gamblers, and social parasites of all kinds, and requires large expenditure of money and energy in watchmen, policemen, courts, prisons, and other means of defense and repression. It kindles a greed of gain and a worship of wealth, and produces a bitter struggle for existence which fosters drunkenness, increases insanity, and causes men whose energies ought to be devoted to honest production to spend their time and strength in cheating and grabbing from each other. Besides the moral loss, all this involves an enormous economic loss which the Single Tax would save.

(e) The taxes we would abolish fall most heavily on the poorer agricultural districts, and tend to drive population and wealth from them to the great cities. The tax we would increase would destroy that monopoly of land which is the great cause of that distribution of population which is crowding the people too closely together in some places and scattering them too far apart in other places. Families

live on top of one another in cities because of the enormous speculative prices at which vacant lots are held. In the country they are scattered too far apart for social intercourse and convenience, because, instead of each taking what land he can use, every one who can grabs all he can get, in the hope of profiting by its increase of value, and the next man must pass farther on. Thus we have scores of families living under a single roof, and other families living in dugouts on the prairies afar from neighbors—some living too close to each other for moral, mental, or physical health, and others too far separated for the stimulating and refining influences of society. The wastes in health, in mental vigor, and in unnecessary transportation result in great economic losses which the Single Tax would save.

Let us turn to the moral side and consider the question of justice.

The right of property does not rest on human laws; they have often ignored and violated it. It rests on natural laws—that is to say, the law of God. It is clear and absolute, and every violation of it, whether committed by a man or a nation, is a violation of the command, "Thou shalt not steal." The man who catches a fish, grows an apple, raises a calf, builds a house, makes a coat, paints a picture, constructs a machine, has, as to any such thing, an exclusive right of ownership, which carries with it the right to give, to sell or bequeath that thing.

But who made the earth that any man can claim such ownership of it, or any part of it, or the right to give, sell or bequeath it? Since the earth was not made by us, but is only a temporary dwelling place on which one generation of men follow another; since we find ourselves here, are manifestly here with equal permission of the creator, it is manifest that no one can have any exclusive right of ownership in land, and that the rights of all men to land must be equal and inalienable. There must be an exclusive right of possession of land, for the man who uses it must have secure possession of land in order to reap the products of his labor. But his right of possession must be limited by the equal right of all, and should therefore be conditioned on the payment to the community by the possessor of an equivalent for any special valuable privilege thus accorded him.

When we tax houses, crops, money, furniture, capital or wealth in any of its forms, we take from individuals what rightfully belongs to them. We violate the right of property, and in the name of the state commit robbery. But when we tax ground values, we take from individuals what does not belong to them, but belongs to the community, and which cannot be left to individuals without the robbery of the community.

Think what the value of land is. It has no reference to the cost of production, as has the value of houses, horses, ships, clothes, or other things produced by labor, for land is not produced by man, it was created by God. The value of land does not come from the exertion of labor on land, for the value thus produced is a value of improvement. That value attaches to a piece of land means that it is more desirable for use than a like piece of less or no value, and that men are willing to pay a premium for permission to use it. Justice therefore requires that this premium of value shall be taken for the benefit of all in order to secure to all their equal rights.

Consider the difference between the value of a building and the value of land. The value of a building, like the value of goods or of anything properly styled wealth, is produced by individual exertion, and therefore properly belongs to the

The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies
—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution
providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

individual; but the value of land only arises with the growth and improvement of the community, and therefore properly belongs to the community. It is not because of what its owners have done, but because of the presence of the whole great population, that land in New York is worth millions an acre. This value therefore is the proper fund for defraying the common expenses of the whole population; and it must be taken for public use, under penalty of generating land speculation and monopoly which will bring about artificial scarcity where the Creator has provided in abundance for all whom His providence has called into existence. It is thus a violation of justice to tax labor, or the things produced by labor, and it is also a violation of justice not to tax land values.

These are the fundamental reasons for which we urge the Single Tax, believing it to be the greatest and most fundamental of all reforms. We do not think it will change human nature. That, man can never do; but it will bring about conditions in which human nature can develop what is best, instead of, as now in so many cases, what is worst. It will permit such an enormous production as we can now hardly conceive. It will secure an equitable distribution. It will solve the labor problem and dispel the darkening clouds which are now gathering over the horizon of our civilization. It will make undeserved poverty an unknown thing. It will check the soul-destroying greed of gain. It will enable men to be at least as honest, as true, as considerate, and as high-minded as they would like to be. It will remove temptation to lying, false swearing, bribery and law breaking. It will open to all, even the poorest, the comforts and refinements and opportunities of an advancing civilization. It will thus, so we reverently believe, clear the way for the coming of that kingdom of right and justice, and consequently of abundance and peace and happiness, for which the Master told His disciples to pray and work. It is not that it is a promising invention or cunning device that we look for the Single Tax to do all this; but it is because it involves a conforming of the most important and fundamental adjustments of society to the supreme law of justice, because it involves the basing of the most important of our laws on the principle that we should do to others as we would be done by.

The readers of this article, I may fairly presume, believe, as I believe, that there is a world for us beyond this. The limit of space has prevented me from putting before them more than some hints for thought. Let me present two more:

1. What would be the result in heaven itself if those who got there first instituted private property in the surface of heaven, and parceled it out in absolute ownership among themselves, as we parcel out the surface of the earth?

2. Since we cannot conceive of a heaven in which the equal rights of God's children to their father's bounty is denied, as we now deny them on this earth, what is the duty enjoined on Christians by the daily prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven"?

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR: SINGLE TAX WILL OPEN CALIFORNIA'S TWENTY MILLION IDLE ACRES TO IMMEDIATE FOOD PRODUCTION!

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Don't Waste It!

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The

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Vol. 2

JUNE 15, 1918

No. 18

From June Orchard and Farm, the leading farm journal on Pacific Coast.

GREAT SINGLE TAX DEBATE

THE Single Taxers are preparing for a big drive this summer and fall. They polled over 260,000 votes in California in 1916, and they say that they will poll 70,000 more at the next election and win the State.

Do the farmers want taxes levied on land values alone?

What are the arguments for and against Single Tax?

Orchard and Farm announces a great debate on the question:

Would Single Tax Aid or Injure the Farmer?

Luke North, vice president of the National Association known as "The Great Adventure for Single Tax," will put the case for the Henry George theorists in July Orchard and Farm, and a leading Anti-Single Taxer, will reply. In the August number Mr. North will argue against the opponent of the George theory and in turn will be answered by the Anti-Single Taxer. And so the debate will continue back and forth up to election time, the last installment to be published in the November Orchard and Farm.

Curse of California: Millions of Idle Acres

BAILEY MILLARD, Editor *Orchard and Farm*

Under the above heading there was published in the April number of the Orchard and Farm an article that, as one correspondent has put it, "stirred the State."

But what is the good of stirring the State if, after it is stirred, it settles down again and does nothing to correct the great evil of its idle lands?

The heart of the patriotic rural economist is sickened by the slowness with which the problem of our idle acres is being solved. Sometimes he feels like throwing up his hands and saying, "What's the use? Let it go! Nothing is being done and nothing will be done to correct the great evil and to get down to real efficiency in the matter of food production."

If, at the time of our entry into the world war, fourteen months ago, it had been predicted that the millions of acres of idle lands in California would still be idle in June 1918, the prophecy would have been declared a treasonable utterance.

Well, those millions of acres are still idle! Are they going to remain idle?

Can nothing be done to put them under tilth?

Can nothing be done to speed up food production in the only way that it can



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be speeded up—the cultivation of land that is yielding nothing of human food?

What active agency is there at work to break up the big holdings and let the small farmers—men eager and willing to go forth and till that land and produce the food for which the hungry peoples of Europe are crying, and for which our own people will soon be crying?

As we look over the whole horizon we can see no active, no potent agency bent upon this highly important work save one organization.

What is that organization? The Single Taxers.

Here is a body of earnest men and women voters eager, nay ardent, in their desire to use their own peculiar means to break up the big land holdings, and they will do it as surely as sunrise unless our Federal or State Government, our business men or our County organizations get busy and head them off with a more expedient plan.

What makes us think that Single Tax is gaining ground?

Well, in the first place, as organized in California, it has a tremendous following. At the last general election it polled 260,332 votes. This year the Single Taxers have rolled up their sleeves and are hard at work. Next November, unless there is a great awakening among our people before that time, they will poll half a million votes and Single Tax will be the law of the State.

California is a State of surprises, and a lot of our people will wake up next November to find that theirs is the first State in the Union to go upon the Single Tax list. Unless—

Well, unless a more acceptable scheme of agrarian reform shall be planned and carried out before that time.

There is no use trying to disguise the fact that the Single Taxers are the only element that is prosecuting any sort of campaign at present to break up the big land holdings. They feel that the time is auspicious, for there is a general, if vague, demand that something be done to throw open our idle acres. . . . They are all working with great energy, they are continually proselyting throughout the State, and they are preparing for a whirlwind campaign this summer and fall. They have their petitions out in every city and town, and many thousands of signatures have been secured. They openly avow their intention to sweep the State and are willing to admit that the entire energies of their national organization are centered upon California. That organization wants to make this State the entering wedge. It sees in present conditions here the best possible chance to win a first victory for Single Tax in this country.

Single Tax, as laid down by Henry George, is not a bad thing theoretically. Its advocates are worthy men and women—some of them of high culture and all of them imbued with the best of motives—the more equitable distribution of the world's wealth.

But, granting that the ideas of the California Single Taxers are right, is this the time to put them into practice? A world war on hand, millions clamoring for food, and, in the midst of it all, to have an economic upheaval that would discourage the ownership of land or the renting of it for food production!(A)

There is powerful logic in the suggestion that our Single Tax friends should wait a while, or begin their "Great Adventure" by a gradual increase of taxation upon land and a lessening of taxation upon improvements. But no; they must needs have their Homeric shake-up right now in the midst of the great war. No wonder agrarian economists are saying that they are inviting chaos.(B)

Farmers dread the coming of Single Tax, for they think it would mean the doubling of taxation on land owners and the confiscation of their property. What most of them probably do not know is that the proposed amendment would take for the public use the rental and site value of land, thus leaving no real value in the hands of the owner.(C)

But this article is not intended as an argument against Single Tax. As we say, we do not know that it is a bad thing. It never has been tried. The Canadian example, which is only modified and limited Single Tax, is not a fair one, for there the Government has aided many industries by bountiful subsidies, compared with which our own Government's contributions are on a paltry scale.(D)

If our farmers do not want to witness the great economic upheaval which Single Tax certainly would bring, let them get together and petition the Government to enlarge the scope and powers of the Land Banks so that it shall be an easy matter for a prospective farmer to secure money to make a first payment upon a new farm and the new building upon it.(E)

While not meaning to anticipate the debate, the temptation to answer a few of Mr. Millard's viewpoints is irresistible—wherefore the following notes.—LUKE NORTH.

(A) Not an "upheaval," but an economic and moral adjustment, bringing order and simplicity to the present confusion in taxation. Would not "discourage ownership" for Use. This is the time of All times in the history of U. S. when "the millions clamoring for food" and the need of the Allies make it most fitting, even imperative, to open the land to production.

(B) Inviting not "chaos," but food production! The proposed amendment merely enacts the system under which the land values tax may be increased as gradually as the people desire. A very small increase would be enough to discourage land monopoly at once and meet all present public expenses.

(C) Would leave all the "real value" of land to its Users, would untax farmers instead of "doubling" their taxes and "confiscate" only rent and speculative value. The farmers of U. S. own less than 10 per cent of the land value and pay 60 per cent of the taxes; under Single Tax they would pay less than 10 per cent of the taxes.

(D) Even limited Single Tax in Canada is helpful and farmers would not go back to taxing crops, tools, furniture, etc. Under the full single Tax principle of free access to natural opportunities the government would not have to give subsidies to induce people to cultivate California land.

(E) This is no time to ask the government to lend money to farmers. The supreme and all-engrossing duty of the government now is to win the war, and California's greatest help will be to open its 20 million idle, monopolized acres to immediate and unlimited food production.

The Secretary's S. O. S. Heed It!

To Earnest Singletaxers who have not yet contributed to the California Campaign:

DEAR COMRADES: As you know, we are in the midst of a campaign to open up the more than twenty million acres of unused arable California land.

Since our country entered this war and the necessity of raising more food is so plain to everybody, we are cutting all academic hair-splitting arguments and presenting the big end of the case. We must get access to these twenty million acres. There are only two ways: By violence, as the Mexicans drove off their landlords, which would be foolish to consider in this country and entirely unnecessary in California where the People truly have full political power to make economic changes; and by law, as we alone advocate.

There is only one way to do it by law. How can we make these land-specula-

The Great Adventure in California

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles
San Francisco Office, 948 Market Street, Room 6

tors holding so much idle land let go of their un-war-taxed holdings which, with a lick of work, will gain them great fortunes? How can we pry them loose? There is but one thing that can cut under a perfect title to land. A tax.

A tax on land values will legally cause them to let go or sell some of the surplus. When all speculators begin to sell, some users can begin to afford to buy. Is there a bigger thing to do just at this crisis than this?

We are up to the neck in this work. There is no turning back. We must go on. We must get the Single Tax Amendment on the ballot!

We have recently filed all over the state 63,342 signatures for our petition and find they run about 74 per cent technically valid. In the 30 days more for the supplementary filing, we must have as many more signatures to gain a safe margin, for the legal minimum of valid names is 74,134.

Now, in the last three months we have received daily, letters from all over the country, from Canada, Nova Scotia, British Columbia, Cuba, Alaska, New Zealand, England and today from China. Beautiful inspiring letters enclosing from 50 cents to \$200; one even for \$1,000.

On the other hand, petition work, printing and stamps and paper costs vastly more than last campaign; besides soliciting names and precincting costs at the least 6 cents a name against 3 cents two years ago; and in some places more.

Luke North is in San Francisco where he has now a central headquarters for solicitors, and already sixty are at work. Charles K. Stern, the veteran solicitor of San Francisco; James A. Hennesey, the record-breaker in Oakland; Mrs. Minni Duxbury, who got 3,000 signatures in San Jose two years ago, and many other are hard at work. None of these workers get more than their bare living while working, and most of them give their services, but the petition solicitors and some clerical work must be paid.

Now, we find that the fund that has been so cheerfully contributed is insufficient. It will cost more to get on the ballot than was estimated before we filed our first signatures. Many are waiting till we get on before sending us what they expect ultimately to contribute. But the getting on is the great thing. Without that there is no campaign.

Two of us are glad to give our time here every day for nothing, the others get a mere living. Is there any thing more we can do?

Perhaps there is something more that you can do. Please let us know.

LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, Secretary.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to the Immediate production of Food and Supplies, count me in for \$_____ herewith

\$_____ weekly } until the State Election
\$_____ monthly } November 5, 1918

Name _____

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Vol. 2

JULY 20, 1918

No. 19

From the Los ANGELES EVENING RECORD, July 5th, 1918.

RENT HOGS PREY ON WAR-TIME WORKERS

SHIPBUILDERS IN LOS ANGELES HARBOR DISTRICT FORCED TO PAY
PRICE DOUBLED AND TREBLED BY LANDLORDS; COMPLAINTS
FROM ALL PARTS OF COUNTRY REACH GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

A condition full of menace to the successful driving forward of the nation's war-job is rapidly maturing. It is Rent Profiteering.

The government is face to face with the "Ground Hog." The ground hog is reaching out to interpose his greedy snout between the people and their war work.

Unless sharp, drastic, and Rapid action is taken by the national government the few people who own the places where the many people must live will sabotage the job of winning the war.

Information in the hands of the emergency fleet corporation, the war housing bureau, the war department, and other government offices shows that men and women doing war work—soldier, munition worker, shipbuilder, executive official, Liberty Bond buyer, and Red Cross subscriber—everybody who must pay rent for a place to live, are being forced to pay landlords more than they can stand.

In the big industrial towns, where large numbers of people live in apartment or tenement houses, and yearly leases run from Oct. 1, landlords are preparing to add from 10 to 33½ and in some cases 50 per cent to the rents of living places.

Not only the mechanic and wage-worker is feeling the burden. The salaried man whose wage has not been increased to keep pace with the rising cost of living, is being pinched by the landlord.

In the harbor district of Los Angeles house owners are mulcting big profits from men and families who, on account of the shipyards, find it convenient to live in that section.

In cities along the water front, landlords have taken advantage of the fact that shipbuilders want to live near their work and have raised rents from \$3 to \$25 a month.

In many cases shacks that stood vacant most of the time are bringing big returns. The land under them has Suddenly Increased in Value.

Single Tax will put these big land values into the public treasury and leave the Ground Hogs nothing to rent but the actual value of their buildings.

From the LOS ANGELES EVENING RECORD, July 10, 1918.

RENT BANDITS ARE ROBBING SHIP WORKER OF HOME LIFE

San Pedro's rent bandits are robbing hundreds of workingmen and their families of home life. These victims of land monopoly are living in tents and rough board shacks all over the town. The hills are dotted with these makeshifts. Boulevards are lined with them. The families forced to exist under these circumstances are bitter in denunciations of the dollar patriots.

One of these tent colonies, typical of the rest, is on Bonita and O'Farrell streets, just off of Harbor boulevard. It is made up of twenty tents and half a dozen rough board shacks. It looks like a mountain or prairie construction camp. Water must be carried. There is no shade. Sanitary conditions are anything but right.

A 10x12 tent, with screens and board floor, costs upwards of \$60.

American flags fly from most of the tent poles. Ninety per cent of the shipyard workers have bought Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps. Many have sons at the front. Nearly every family has a relative near or remote, in the big struggle.

Beside a majority of these hacks and tents, automobiles are parked. Some are \$1000 cars. Others are the kind Henry makes. The land on which this colony is located is owned by the North Pacific Steamship Co., according to Mayor Woodman. The city, he says, has no control over the property. Many portable houses are in the neighborhood. Some owners leave their "homes" on wheels—because the company reserves the right to oust them on thirty days' notice.

I rapped on the screen door of the newest tent in the flock. A kindly, gray haired, motherly looking woman came to the door. This is what she told me:

"Our home is in Santa Monica. My husband works in the shipyards. We have bought Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps and we've helped the Red Cross. My nephew is with an engineers' company in France. Isn't this war terrible?

"We pay \$5 a month GROUND RENT, but we never can tell how long the steamship company is going to let us stay here. We live in this tent because we will not pay \$40 a month for one room and a kitchenette. You can't get any place fit to live for less. Most of the folks here could get houses if they wanted to, but the landlords want every cent the worker makes.

"We have our car and we go home every Saturday night. As you see, we have nothing but oil lamps, no bath tub, and we must go three blocks for water.

"Because our tent is not partitioned into two rooms, we must sleep outside. They say it's a city ordinance. They tried to make us connect with the sewer, but that would cost \$50, and we never know what minute we'll have to pick up and move. That's why some of the houses around here are on wheels.

"Three weeks ago we were told we'd have to get out. Not a man was about the place, and yet, inside of an hour real estate men were at our doors trying to sell us lots four miles from the yards at \$800 each. Nobody would buy, and the next day the company's agents came around and told us we could stay."

The only men who defend the rent razor-backs are the real estate agents.

They see nothing wrong in charging \$35 a month for a two-room apartment. They explain that business is good in San Pedro. That's true. Its business streets are thronged with soldiers, sailors, workingmen. Its stores are liberally patronized.

Outside of house rents, prices, as far as I could see, are about the same as in Los Angeles.

(See bottom next page.)

C. L. DOWELL.

California Orange Grower Exposes the Antis

LAND PROFITEER DEFENDERS FALL OVER THEIR OWN FEET

FULLERTON, CAL., June 12th, 1918.

PEOPLES' ANTI SINGLE TAX LEAGUE, Los Angeles, Cal.

Dear Sirs: I am in receipt of your circular letter regarding Single Tax and asking for a subscription of \$50 to the Anti Cause.

I have read your circular through in astonishment that clever men as you are, should leave yourselves open to such flagrant misstatements. For example, you quote in red ink:

"Every dollar you have, or expect to have, is undermined by the propaganda of these Single Taxers, if your money is worth anything, you must rise and protect it."

You quote Leslie M. Shaw as saying: "The Single Taxers are working tooth and nail to carry their obnoxious amendment at the Fall elections, which would mean the confiscation of all improved property!"

And in your second circular, "The Single Tax Menace," you say: "It would eliminate from local taxation improvements, personal property and money." And again:

"The Single Tax amendment provides for all taxes to be raised on land values, and exemption of improvements of any nature whatsoever."

First you say, "It will confiscate all improved property;" then you say, "It will exempt all improvements." Which is it?

"It provides for all taxes to be raised on land values, and exemption of improvements of any nature whatsoever." Now, which one lies?

Why don't you read your circulars before you send them out, and not have one giving the lie to the others?

You ask if I know that in the event of Single Tax passing, it would make my ranch practically worthless and probably suffer confiscation. I do not know it.

I do know it is untrue and will prove it from your own circular, in which you state that it would *eliminate* taxes from improvements and personal property. My land is every inch *improved*, and improvements are not taxed, but I do know that my taxes would be reduced, because the great millions of acres of unimproved land would be taxed according to value. I do know that Single Tax *will not tax industry!*

I do know that Single Tax will tax idleness, I mean idle acres, and the owners will have to sell or improve them, and thus beautify and populate our empty but wonderfully fertile country.

On looking over the names of your executive committee, and seeing so many wealthy and clever men, I am astonished that they should stoop to such misstatements and camouflage the whole question with such pernicious literature.

Such being the case, I realize the necessity of helping the Single Tax movement, and am sending to them (not you) my check of \$50.00 to help offset your selfish and misleading propaganda. Very truly yours, THOMAS STRAIN.

Single Tax will put GROUND RENT into the public treasury and stop the landlords "right" to charge people for going on Unused earth.

The Great Adventure in California

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles
San Francisco Office, 948 Market Street, Room 611



Land Patriots

The California Single Tax amendment is assured of a place on the November ballot. Before the end of July we will have filed something over 80,000 validated signatures to the Initiative Petition, the legal requirement being only 74,143. Roughly, the expense has been over \$7000 contributed by over 2000 people. Exact detailed reports will be made in the next *EVERYMAN*.

Now to "go over the top" in November!

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The Great Adventure

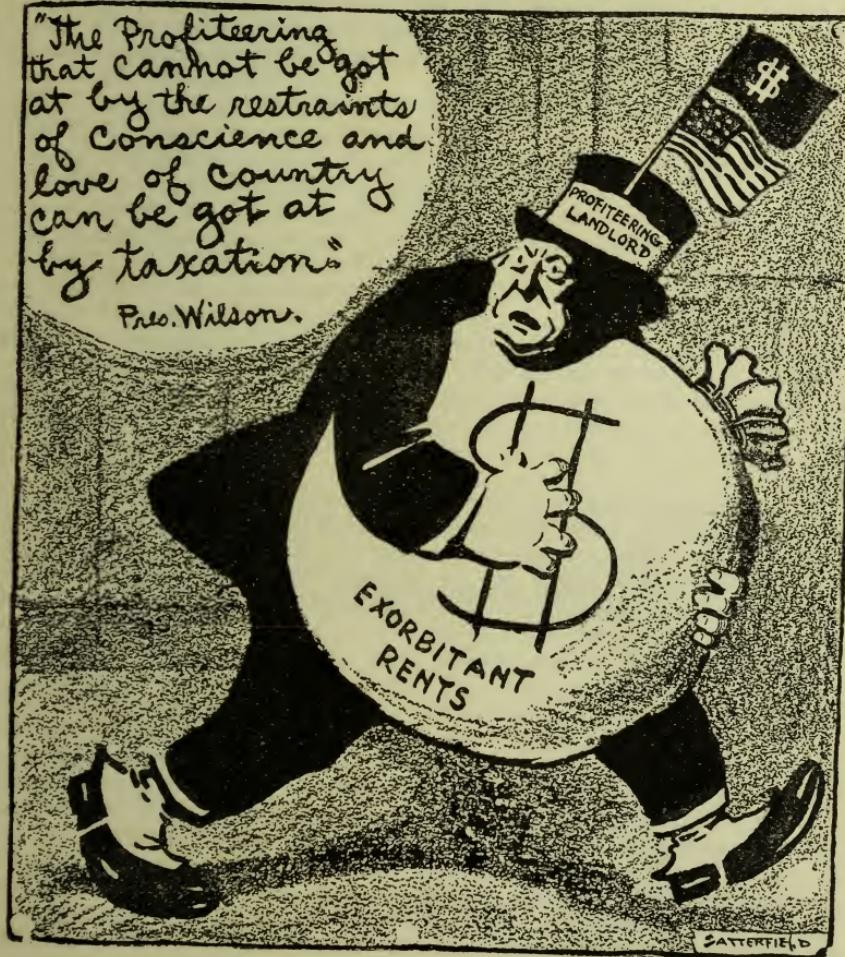
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Vol. 2

AUGUST 3, 1918

No. 20

The Handwriting on the Wall!



From the EVENING RECORD, Los Angeles.

Pres. Wilson Urges Democratic Legislation Now!

A. G. BRODEUR

There is one question which Singletaxers have to meet again and again. It is not a wise question, but it is a natural one: "Is it right to undertake any radical movement during the war?"

It is not enough to reply that The Great Adventure is a war measure, which will release twenty million idle acres in California for the production of food to feed the Allies and win the war; it may not satisfy to say that no one could possibly do anything more radical than President Wilson did in taking over the railroads. People want to know just how the Administration feels toward the enactment of a radical measure at this time.

The answer then is: President Wilson, in his message to the Democratic party of the state of New Jersey, has declared in so many words that *this is the very time to enact radical legislation*, to campaign for the adoption of the principles of democracy into our social and political fabric.

There are two sides to this question of Single Tax: the practical, and the ideal. Fortunately, the two are parallel. We are fighting Germany in order to make the world safe for democracy; and we are advocating the immediate adoption of the Single Tax to make this country safe for democracy at home. The President's message to New Jersey shows that it is both practical to bring democratic measures before the people at this particular time, and in keeping with our ideals, for which our men are fighting on the European battle-fields.

The biggest thing in the world just now is humanity's war against German autocracy. It must be won, and won overwhelmingly. Our destiny is at stake; the ideals of human liberty and progress are in the balance. We must win on the battle-field, and afterward we must win at the peace council, so that militant despotism may never again menace the peace and freedom of the world. The united peoples of the universe are pushing back the German tide; the people now have at least won the edge on the Kaiser in munitions, in men, in spirit, and they will not stop till autocracy has fallen.

In just the same way, the people within every one of the allied nations have the edge on entrenched autocracy at home. The ideals of the battle lines are the ideals of the forces of liberty within each nation. When we entered the war against Germany, we began to think. We saw that the age-old fight for liberty, equality, and fraternity was identical with the war against German autocracy; that privilege was the same whether we fought it here or in France. We are fighting most effectively for freedom at home by fighting for freedom on the Western front; we are upholding our men in the trenches when we do our utmost here to make life at home better and happier for them after their return, and for our children. In the factory, on the farm, on the battle-field, our cause is one with that of humanity. We have waked up as we never waked before. We have just begun to fight, and we shall not stop till privilege everywhere has fallen before the sword of democracy.

President Wilson's message to New Jersey proclaims to the people the necessity for introducing fundamental democracy at once; it declares that now is the time to put our ideals into practical effect, that we must back up our men fighting for democracy abroad by achieving democracy at home. It is this doctrine which we preach. We have reached the turn in the tide of human history. Never again will the world go back to its evil old ways; never again will might make right, either

among nations or among classes of society. The people have the edge, the forces of freedom have taken the offensive, and will keep it till victory is won.

The Great Adventure for the Single Tax is the first and most fundamental blow at autocracy. When the land is freed, the bottom drops out from under privilege, monopoly, injustice. Release California's twenty million idle acres to feed our fighting men and defeat Germany! Accomplish here the overthrow of democracy's foes, while American troops are accomplishing the overthrow of the enemies of mankind in Europe! Sweep from the earth all that which German tyranny represents, and achieve our American ideals of liberty and justice!

SHIP BUILDING HELD UP BY LAND MONOPOLY

OAKLAND, July 12.—The proposed government shipyard in Brooklyn basin will be delayed in completion, and when finished will be 30 to 40 per cent smaller than had been originally planned, because of the refusal of the Alaska Packers' Association to sell certain adjacent lands.

This statement was made yesterday by Charles Piez, vice-president and general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

The land consists of about thirteen acres and is absolutely necessary to the shipyard project as originally planned. Regarding his dealings with Henry F. Fortmann, president of the Alaska Packers' Association, Piez said:

"Fortmann has refused to sell or to give title to the government under any conditions. He has told us that no money could compel him to sell. He submitted a proposition of lease during the duration of the war. That is absurd. The United States government is not going to establish a great permanent ship-building plant on any lease tenure. It is bad business and would not be considered. Fortmann refused to sell on the ground that stockholders' interests must be protected.

"I regret this situation. The Alameda site was chosen as one of two in the United States where permanent works could be constructed, because of the construction facilities of the Bethlehem Company, already in full swing there."



By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

When Colombo said he reckoned that the earth was like a ball, friends and neighbors called him nutty, and he made no hit at all; but Columbo hoisted anchor and went on his looney way, and at last he met the natives in the distant western bay. When a Yankee Boy invented what he proudly said would fly, all the country grocery loafers merely winked their knowing eye; but the Yankee touched the button and went up and took a ride, and today he's shooting bullets in the German flyer's hide. When the Single Taxers argued that the land hog had to go, that the land was made for people who would use it here below, every gosh darn blooming owner of a million-acre farm said "those boobs are simply crazy and their talk a false alarm." But today we see the writing that is "writ" upon the wall, and these land hogs now are squealing, for they're near an awful fall; Single Taxers have their number, and they're going to win the fight, for the people's eyes are opened and they see the coming light.—*San Diego Sun*.

A California Editor Explains the Corporation Tax Humbug

W. L. RIDEOUT, publisher, *Placentia Courier*

Old-timers will remember that when James G. Maguire was a candidate for Governor, one of the arguments advanced against his election was the fact that he was a single taxer. He was pictured as a man that wanted to relieve the bond holder, the money lender, the great corporations, of all their taxes and "stick" the fellow that owned a little home and nothing else.

The writer used this argument, along with the rest of the unthinking herd, but he is now prepared to admit that its use was unfair, as the single tax was in no way an issue of the campaign. Later, he had the pleasure of making Judge Maguire's acquaintance and of discussing the single tax with him, and he conceived a more favorable opinion of the doctrine. Still later, he took the trouble to avail himself of one of the public libraries which all live towns maintain, and to read a number of volumes on the question—something not many of its opponents have done.

He became convinced that, while the single tax is not a cure-all, while it will not altogether abolish poverty from the land, it will greatly better the condition of mankind. For a long time, however, he could not get away from the idea that the great corporations, owning vast quantities of personal property and little land, would be exempt from taxation. But he realized, at length, as set forth in the *Courier* a few weeks ago, that they do not pay any tax under the present system—that the consumer pays all the taxes that are paid. Judge Maguire, we find, makes this point quite clear, declaring that a tax on corporate franchises is "simply an indirect tax—a most unjust and oppressive tax—on producers and consumers." Corporations, he says, collect their taxes "largely in advance, from the shippers and travelers on railroads and from consumers of gas, water, electricity and other commodities, with a considerable profit above the cost of collection."

It is true, as is so often urged, that the corporations in this state pay all the cost of the state government, but they collect every dollar of it from the people, and every man, woman and child in the state contributes to the fund.

At the last election 260,000 people voted for the single tax amendment, and any economic doctrine with such a support as that is worthy of careful consideration.

J. R. Hermann, the veteran Single Tax campaigner, has returned from his eastern tour in behalf of The Great Adventure and is available for speaking dates or debates in California. Mr. Hermann is one of the most powerful and interesting orators who ever devoted himself to the great human issue of Economic Freedom. He keeps his audiences awake, and a good deal more. Every city in California should hear him. Write to Secretary Lona Ingham Robinson for dates.

"Would Single Tax Aid or Injure the Farmer," the affirmative by Luke North, the negative by Albert E. Kern, president Anti Single Tax Association—now running in Orchard and Farm. Twenty-five cents sent direct to the publisher, Hearst Building, Los Angeles, will bring all the numbers of the debate, from July to November. Be sure to ask for the full series.

NO! WE WILL NOT COME THROUGH!

PEOPLE'S ANTI SINGLE TAX LEAGUE, *Los Angeles, Cal.*

EDITOR LOS ANGELES RECORD: On June 25th we addressed a letter to you concerning the proposed single tax amendment, and at that time requested subscription in the amount of \$50.

This has evidently been overlooked by you. We are having a very generous response to these demands, and as we know the amount of calls you have for funds, have made the request for money as low as possible. A large amount has to be raised to properly fight this amendment, and if you give this matter full consideration I do not believe you can consistently refuse to contribute.

We request that you make a reply as to your intentions in this matter.

Yours very truly, H. B. WOODBILL,
Chairman Manufacturers' Section Finance Committee.

The Record's Answer

DEAR SIRS Since you insist upon answer, we take this opportunity to tell you, for your organization, that we believe in the principles of single tax and hope the day is not far distant when they will be put into operation in California. We not only refuse consistently to contribute to your fund, but shall keep on doing so.

If single tax were a reality here the few fat land hogs who are sitting back and smiling while the people make their idle tracts worth more and more would have to disgorge or pay their fair proportion of taxes.

If it were not for such organizations as yours, the producer, the real source of all wealth, would get something approximating a square deal. When the people really understand what single tax will accomplish, and signify that they *do* understand by marking their ballots, foundation for real, lasting prosperity will be laid.

There is no fundamental justice in the present system. That is why it cannot endure forever. Single tax means taxes based on land values. Your organization is opposed to single tax because its members have prospered through some form of monopoly.

When the grip of the land baron is broken the poor man will have a chance. When thousands upon thousands of fertile acres are relinquished by the land sharks; when unimproved city property is made to carry its share of the tax load the most of us will be vastly better off than we are today.

We agree with you on just one point.

You say a large amount has to be raised to properly fight this amendment.

You are right.

The people are waking up, and in time you won't be able to get enough dollars together to stem the tide.

Single tax is right in principle, successful in operation, and its general adoption is only a matter of time.

We trust you will live to see and enjoy this when it is accomplished.

The Single Tax on land values means food for the allied armies and peoples, homes for returning soldiers, the end of land monopoly and the beginning of Economic Democracy! It means the settlement of California's Idle Acres!

THE WESTERN ECONOMIC FRONT

Early in June Secretary of State Frank C. Jordan reported filings in his office for the Single Tax petition of 47,476. This was 75 per cent net validated signatures out of a gross total of 63,289. Between the 16th and 27th of July supplementary filings in twelve different counties totaled 56,800 which, if it validates at a 70 per cent average will give the grand net total of 87,400. As the legal requirements is only 74,143, the announcement that The Great Adventure amendment has reached the ballot and will be THE issue of the fall campaign, seems reasonably safe.

SACRAMENTO FEDERATED TRADES COUNCIL

MEMBER OF A. F. OF L.

SACRAMENTO, CAL., July 5, 1918.

To WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This is to certify that the Sacramento Federated Trades Council is on record as HEARTILY ENDORSING THE SINGLE TAX, and earnestly urges every person with the interests of the Masses at heart to append his or her signature to their initiative petition.

There are in the State of California 20,000,000 acres of idle, arable land, held out of use by private speculators.

Food comes from land.

Food will win the war.

Twenty million acres of California land are NOT behind the President and the boys "over there."

The Single Tax will force this land into use. Support it and urge your neighbor to support it, too.

Sincerely, Wm. C. EDDY,
Secretary, Sacramento Federated Trades Council.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

LUKE NORTH, Los Angeles, Calif.

NEW YORK, N. Y., July 27, 1918.

The Single Tax party of New York in convention assembled at Albany congratulates The Great Adventure in California on its success in getting the petition on the ballot and confidently looks forward to your ultimate success at the polls.

FRANK CHODOROV, Sec'y.

Bernard Hartley, in charge of the San Francisco Single Tax Headquarters (948 Market Street, room 611) is one of the Pacific Coast war horses, with a wide acquaintance in the Single Tax world and much experience in campaigning—but he can do little without the hearty cooperation of the Bay Counties workers. Judging from the tone and temper of the memorable gathering of Adveuturers at the Plaza Hotel in San Francisco, July 22d, this will not be lacking. Most of the active workers of 1916 were there, and several new ones. Contra Costa, Yolo, Santa Clara, Marin, San Mateo, Alameda, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and San Francisco counties were represented. A congratulatory letter was read from Judge James G. Maguire, and his old friend and associate with Henry George, P. J. Healy, was in spirit and faith one of the youngest men present.

The Great Adventure in California has no interest in personal politics. Under its constitutional amendment forbidding the taxation of labor and industry and absorbing into the public treasury future increase of land values, the most undemocratic public officials will lose their power to exploit the people for the land speculators and food trusts.

It is worth considering, however, that of the eight men seeking to be chosen as

the candidates for governor, three have uttered democratic declarations of a fundamental nature, two are specifically pledged against land monopoly, and one promises to make it his leading issue, if nominated.

Francis J. Heney, who seeks the democratic nomination, is sound on the land issue—nobody questions it. Charles A. A. Magee, who is after the republican nomination, has a program for forcing idle land holders to cultivate their acres or let go, and is making this his chief bid for support. James Rolph Jr. declares himself finely for the abolition of privilege and for “a world that shall belong to all the people living in it.” He is seeking both the republican and the democratic nominations. The primary election is August 27th.

To the Everyman Friends

Everyman is a work of love. Its writing, editing, and making-up are all of the keenest interest, a self-indulgence to self-expression—but it is a labor; its preparation consumes time, energy, and money; and there are only ninety-three days left for the California Single Tax Campaign!

Would it not be wiser, safer, for the best interests of the California campaign to conserve the human and financial ingredients that go into the production of Everyman and use them more directly in the campaign?

Ninety-three days (this is published August 3d, the election is November 5th) are all too few for the task that now confronts the far too small band of workers able to give it their undivided attention and their whole heart and time.

To gain the ballot, under the peculiar labor conditions and with the very modest amount of money available, it was found necessary to drop everything but the single task of enrolling the legal number of valid signatures to the Single Tax Initiative Petition. Everything else was forgotten or held in abeyance and every energy of The Great Adventure workers was concentrated during the last sixty days of the canvass on the one essential thing. We stopped arguing and preaching Single Tax and went among the quarter-million electors already pledged for it and gained their signatures. People signed readily enough; ours was the most popular and easiest to get signatures for, of all the initiative petitions offered this year, some of which failed to get the legal number of signers.

Never once during the canvass were we sure just what amount of money we could rely upon and there was seldom \$1,000 ahead of us in the bank.

But after filing a good half of our petition on the 31st of May, very soon we threw caution to the wind and plunged, incurring obligations way beyond our known income—hoping, believing, enough would come. It did come. Our faith was justified. Will the campaign for votes be different?

Now, on the final drive for 700,000 votes in November, shall we hesitate, plan only in accordance with the few hundred dollars left in the treasury and the limited number of actual pledges? Shall we keep one eye on the commissariat and regulate our forward pace by its lumbering and uncertain progress? That would be good “business”—but would it land us “over the top” at the end of ninety-three days?

Since the advent of The Great Adventure (in its pages) every issue of Everyman has brought a good deal more money than its cost in dollars. It would be better “business” to issue Everyman at once and keep it appearing regularly, but its effectiveness in gaining VOTES for the California Single Tax Amendment would be

The Great Adventure in California

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles
San Francisco Office, 948 Market Street, Room 611

comparatively small. It would stimulate interest thruout the world in the California campaign (and also, as was planned, in the Missouri campaign)—but it could not reach EVERY California voter, and that is now our task beyond all others!

Well, we have decided to plunge and to trust again. We are going to save our every dollar, hour, and energy for the single and direct task of reaching **EVERY CALIFORNIA VOTER!**

You Everyman readers and subscribers will understand—and “come across” as regularly and as generously as the Everyman were appealing to you every month—will you not? In its lieu you will receive this little weekly, which we now plan to issue regularly and to place in the hands of every California voter. And when the battle is over in November, may you receive Everyman announcing that Economic Democracy, Individual Self-Determination, has at last gained a firm foothold in one of the greatest sovereign States of the Union!

No human being dare promise this result, but we will work intensely, thoughtfully, prayerfully, trustingly, with all the power of heart and head in unison that singleness of purpose can command to bring this result—and our work will be more effective, we are thoroly convinced, if we can concentrate it all on the home campaign—trusting that You will realize our need without Everyman as a reminder, that you will understand why it is not issued, and contribute as liberally as tho it were; trusting that the little news of our battle royal that reaches you in these few pages every week will be enough to hold your interest and justify our faith in the Single Tax world militant.

This Great Adventure Weekly now begins its campaign for half a million paid subscribers, at Ten Cents a year. That price will pay for paper, printing and mailing—the expense of gaining the circulation must be met by voluntary contributions.

There are more than 500,000 people in California who will readily subscribe for The Great Adventure. But how can they be reached?

The answer to that question will also answer “How can we reach Every California Voter, and keep before him and her, all thru the campaign the great white truth of Economic Freedom and Democracy against the quibbles and falsehoods of the organized Anti Singletaxers?

They are practically the same problem.

Half a million copies of this little Weekly circulating regularly will offset the influence of the reactionary press (now less numerous than in 1916) and carry the state for Single Tax.

How many copies will you subscribe for?

Send your order at once, for one copy or a thousand. Use the blank form below.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to production of Food and Homes for Returning Soldiers, count me in for _____ .
subscriptions to THE GREAT ADVENTURE WEEKLY

\$ _____

Name _____

Date _____ 1918 Address _____

The Great Adventure

260,332 Single Tax votes in 1916: 700,000 votes this year

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Vol. 2

AUGUST 10, 1918

No. 21

From the EVENING RECORD, Los Angeles.

Eventually, Why Not Now?

Various political aspirants have found a big, broad new plank for their platforms that is popular and plausible—advocating government land for returning soldiers.

Some of them suggest the state should buy enough of the idle land to give farms to thousands of our heroes. Others merely deal in glittering generalities. None of them, as we see it, go far enough.

The real solution of the land-for-soldiers-and-sailors lies in the adoption by voters of the single tax measure, which, we are told, will go on the ballot at the November election.

Why should the people, that is, the state, give up millions to land barons and water hogs?

Rob these land holders of the opportunity to make fabulous profits by taxing the land and they'll let go quick!

Single tax will do this thing.

There are 20,000,000 acres of tillable land in California now lying idle; land that will increase tremendously in price when the boys come home; acres enough to give half a million of our soldiers and sailors a chance to make a home and become producers to feed a hungry world.

The water power problem has been partly solved through creation of a water commission. The difficulty of obtaining land will never be rightly overcome until single tax is put in operation.

Candidates are afraid to go on record as favoring single tax. They fear enmity of financial interests. Twenty years ago candidates shied away from municipal ownership of public utilities in the same way. Until Uncle Sam took over railroad, telegraph and telephone lines, few advocated such "radical" steps.

But the world moves.

They can't dodge the land question successfully for many more campaigns. And when single tax straightens out the present unjust, unfair system, we'll all wonder why we were so backward about going forward.

Let's go now!

SACRAMENTO, August 2.—Two initiative petitions qualified today for a place on the state ballot in November, Statistician Cremin of the secretary of state's office announced. They are the single tax and the dental petitions.

Shipyard Men Beg Uncle Sam for Lower Rent

LONG BEACH, CAL., July 20.—The rent situation in this town has become so serious a petition has been addressed to the U. S. Shipping Board, asking relief.

Rent profiteers are reaping a harvest. Shacks are at a premium. Bungalows cannot be had. Many men employed in the shipyards are paying from \$20 to \$35 a month for two-room tent houses.

Hundreds of laborers, molders, riveters, carpenters and others who found themselves forced to pay the enormous rents, signed the petition to the shipping board.

Scores of shipyard men are living in Los Angeles even though the car fare is a considerable item. They simply refuse to be held up by the "rent hogs." Commutation books sell for \$6.50 for 54 single rides, but at that the worker finds himself better off. The disadvantage is that he must get up at dawn and it is an hour on the car before and after work.

Common laborers are getting 50 cents per hour. The scale goes up as the men are skilled in their trades, but if the laborer makes \$24 a week and must pay \$20 to \$25 per month for a house, his family must live on a little more than \$2 per day. The petition to the Shipping Board reads:

"We, the undersigned, do pray and petition your body that we be released from the oppression of the landlords that are raising and advancing the rents, taking advantage of the fact that we are compelled to live near the shipyards. Last fall a great many of these shacks and houses were vacant and had been for a long time, except for a few weeks in the summer; some were condemned by the city authorities and are so still condemned; but the landlords are advancing the rents from \$3 to \$30 per month. This is pro-German propaganda, as it will compel a great many shipyard workers to seek other modes of making a living. As a sample: A man earning \$100 per month and paying \$30 for rent makes really only \$2 a day for other living expenses, one-third of the wages going for rent! We ask that this continued increasing of rent be stopped at once."

The redress of every grievance of oppressed humanity has begun with the words "We petition," "We beg," "We plead"—but before the wrong is righted these words are changed to "We demand," "We take," "We enact and establish as the law of the land"—

That is how Democracy is won—not by begging.

May the rent-racked Long Beach ship yard workers gain some abatement of the evil by their petition, but let them remember that three months from now, at the November election, they can kill the system of land monopoly which fattens the ground hogs at their expense, not only at the shipyards but everywhere in the state, by thundering thru the ballot box "*The People of California do enact* the end of landlordism." Thereafter they will not have to humiliate themselves by petitioning for a bit of land to rest on while working for their country.

"Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," by Henry George; in No. 17 of The Great Adventure Weekly; 50 cents a hundred, 10 cents a dozen.

Will the Single Tax Burden the Farmer?

The Antis say that Single Tax will throw the tax burden on the farmer, because he has much land. But the California farmer is learning that Single Tax is on land *value*, and the *value* of this land is insignificant. In the fifty-five counties outside of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Alameda the total assessed value of all land is \$13,662,000 less than in these three. Let's repeat it this way: The assessed land values of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Alameda (Controller's report for 1916) were \$13,662,000 more than the value of all the land in all the other fifty-five agricultural counties. There's still a stronger way to state it, thus: The total value of all the land in all the fifty-eight counties of California in 1916 was \$1,853,560,524; but the larger part of this was the value of city and town lots (\$1,064,495,191) while the entire value of all the acreage and farming land was only \$789,065,333. Of course this acreage value includes the 20,000,000 idle acres, most of which is grossly under valued, while the 11,000,000 acres of cultivated land are assessed at top notch. When the idle acres are taxed at the same value as the used land, the working farmer who tills the soil and produces food will have comparatively no tax to pay. The idle acres and the city lots will pay the Single Tax—and labor and industry will be untaxed.

Why Don't They Pay Taxes Now on Money?

If the Antis are honest in their objection to Single Tax because it would not assess money in bank and credits, why don't they pay taxes now on money and credits? Do they? Let us see. The State Controller's report gives the total assessment on money and credits for the city of Los Angeles in 1916 as \$5,996,000. But the clearing house report for that year shows there was \$194,093,000 on deposit in the Los Angeles banks—leaving over \$188,000,000 of money practicly untaxed!



By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

Just you watch the realestaters paw the air and fume and fret, just you watch the idlelanders chaw the rag and swear and sweat; just you watch the idlelotters grind their teeth and pull their hair, as they see the singletaxers help the Yankees "over there." Just you watch the wealthy owners of the million-acre farms, just you watch assessor dodgers as they hear the loud alarms; just you pipe the sharks a-waiting for big advance in land, men who neither work nor swelter but who live in mansions grand. Oh, they're going to get what's coming, when the singletaxers win, and they're going to wake some morning when the votes come pouring in; for there's reason for the shouting that the land was made to till, so the boys who wear the khaki may be sure and have their fill. What's the use of raising prices on the things we have to eat, on the wheat and oats and barley, and the turnip and the beet—what's the use of idlelanders, and the ranches that they buy, while we need more grain and sugar, and we're short of beans and rye?—*Los Angeles Record*.

Woodrow Wilson on the Real Test of Justice

The following are excerpts from a letter written by PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON and read at Newark, N. J., March 20, 1918.

Every sign of these terrible days of war and revolutionary change, when economic and social forces are being released upon the world whose effect no political seer dare venture to conjecture, bids us search our hearts through and through and make them ready for the birth of a new day—a day, we hope and believe, of greater opportunity and greater prosperity for the average mass of struggling men and women, and of greater safety and opportunity for children.

The old party slogans have lost their significance and will mean nothing to the voter of the future, for the war is certain to change the mind of Europe as well as the mind of America. Men everywhere are searching democratic principles to their hearts in order to determine their soundness, their sincerity, their adaptability to the real needs of their life, and every man with any vision must see that the real test of justice and right action is presently to come as it never came before.

The men in the trenches, who have been freed from the economic serfdom to which some of them have been accustomed, will, it is likely, return to their homes with a new view and a new impatience of all mere political phrases, and will demand real thinking and sincere action.

The days of political and economic reconstruction which are ahead of us no man can now definitely assess, but we know this, that every program must be shot through and through with utter disinterestedness; that no party must try to serve itself, but every party must try to serve humanity, and that the task is a very practical one, meaning that every program, every measure in every program, must be tested by this question, and this question only: Is it just; is it for the benefit of the average man, without influence or privilege; does it embody in real fact the highest conception of social justice and of right dealing without respect of person or class or particular interest?

AS TRUE OF CALIFORNIA AS OF MISSOURI

If we can carry Henry George's message to every voter in the state we can win, and win Now. We can make Missouri economically free. We can free her manhood and her womanhood, and set her as a city upon a hill, a light that cannot be hid. Her influence will force the acceptance of this beneficent move to the attention of every state in the union. It will shake the throne of plutocracy. It will be the beginning of the blessings of economic and industrial democracy for all the world.—VERNON J. ROSE, *chairman Campaign Committee.*

THE SOUTHERN WORKERS IN COUNCIL

A "Ballot Celebration" was held by the Southern California Adventurers in Los Angeles, July 25th. It was largely attended by the active workers. Henry W. Hetzel of Philadelphia and Field Secretary J. R. Hermann were the chief speakers. Very little was said about Single Tax and very much about how to "go over the top" with it in November. August Gamble presided. A strong feeling of confidence in our ability to win the election was expressed by all the speakers. Every section of Los Angeles and most of the adjoining counties were represented.

Democracy Comes from People

Woodrow Wilson can't do everything. He is winning the world's first war for peace without conquest, for democracy and self-determination. He is turning the world's attention and interest away from selfish profit to human welfare—but he can't undertake to change the land system of the United States, specifically and practicly, at the same time. That he approves the change, hopes for it and will welcome it when We, the People of California enact it in November, there is no fair doubt. His acts attest it. He has surrounded himself with fundamental democratic thinkers, placed Singletaxers in his cabinet and made them members of his official administrative family at Washington and elsewhere.

Some duties beside blindly following and waving the flag devolve on "We, the People." To enact Single Tax in California and thus make it a national issue will please Woodrow Wilson and strengthen his arm and his armies for the mighty task before them of making the world safe for that democracy which the People shall institute.

This is the time of all times for Singletaxers to make Single Tax the national issue, bring it out from its academic swathings, prove it, enact it, teach it by example—when all the honestly liberal statemen in America, men like Schwab, Kent, Hiram Johnson, and others who may really stand for all they say, will gladly embrace it and lead it to universal application. But the Initiative *must come from the People*. True liberty is not handed down from above. Every fundamental demand for economic democracy must originate with the People and by the People be pressed into public, national prominence. Only then can the statesmen espouse it.

Wilson has splendidly enunciated the principle of Self-Determination and declared himself for "the removal of the economic barriers" that keep men from free access to natural opportunities. It is for the people themselves to give definition and direction to those principles.

Democracy cannot be given. It must be taken, made, enacted, by the People, and now of all time, is the time to do it.

To Welcome Gerrit Johnson

To welcome Gerrit J. Johnson's return to California and counsel with him how to win in November, the Active Workers of The Great Adventure in Southern California will meet at New Campi Cafe, 214 West First Street, Tuesday evening, August 13, at 6:30 sharp. Plates \$1.00. Notify the Secretary to save a plate for you, as far in advance as possible.

Five Hundred Thousand paid subscribers in California for this little weekly will win 700,000 votes for the Single Tax constitutional Amendment in November.

Anything and Everything but a Tax on Slacker Acres and the 100,000 Vacant City Lots

LOS ANGELES, August 1.—Every class of business in the city may soon be forced to pay a license tax, according to a resolution introduced in council Thursday by Councilman Neal P. Olsen and referred to the efficiency commission for report.

The resolution stated the city charter limits the taxable valuation of property to \$1 and a considerable source of revenue heretofore received from the licensing of saloons has been discontinued. Therefore, a tax on every class of business was necessary, the resolution stated, to produce sufficient revenue.

Time to Smoke Out the Land Hogs and Profiteers

Mr. LUKE NORTH, *Los Angeles*.

SAN DIEGO, August 5, 1918.

Dear Sir: I am heartily in accord with your slogan, "Use Your Land or Get Off It." My heart is with you in this and if I am elected Governor I will use all the power I have under the Constitution to make it a living, practical reality. This is the time to smoke out the Land Hogs and Land Profiteers.

CHARLES A. A. MAGEE,

Candidate for Republican Nomination for Governor.

Agents wanted to obtain subscriptions for *The Great Adventure Weekly*.

Workers wanted, in all parts of the state, to distribute printed matter for the Single Tax Amendment to be voted on November 5th.

"Land Speculation vs. the Administration" in No. 16 of this weekly—a good campaign document. Fifty cents a hundred, ten cents a dozen; any quantity.

Five hundred thousand Great Adventure Weeklies going to 500,000 paid subscribers in California will win the world for Economic Democracy. Will you help?

The Great Adventure Weekly No. 17 contains Henry George's "Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," the best, simplest, and clearest explanation ever written. Can be supplied in any quantity at 50 cents a hundred, 10 cents a dozen.

THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE: To win the struggle for Democracy, at home and abroad; to feed, equip, and strengthen the Boys now "over there" and the millions to follow; to have a home ready and a job at good wages waiting, when the victorious heroes come back "over here."

If, after Our Boys have saved civilization and made the world safe for democracy, they return (those that do return) and find that because of their sacrifice and valor land values have gone up and it is harder than ever to get hold of a little plot of ground, won't that increment in your pocket burn—and break your rest when you are alone with your thoughts? Better enlist with us now and sleep the untroubled sleep of the Singletaxer.—L. D. BECKWITH.

The dollar sign is passing as the insignia of ruthless power. We have come into a new order of things. This war marks the darkness that precedes the dawn of universal democracy that shall be lifted to the lofty level of brotherhood. Are we fighting merely to prove the fallacy of autocracy? No, we are fighting this war for a democracy that shall reach down and take root in the heart and life of every citizen in every country. There is no such a thing as a democracy that is not universal.—S. W. STRAUSS, *president American Society for Thrift*.

Five Children Are "Economy's" Toll

GERRIT J. JOHNSON in *Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald*.

EDITOR HERALD—Just returned from the juvenile home fire. This home was a flimsy, wooden structure. Up in the third story we kept the children behind heavy barred wire windows and padlocked doors. We locked the little tots in so securely that the brave firemen had to chop their way through side walls to get to them.

Over at the undertaker's I saw five little bundles, each pinned in a sheet, the only thing left of our victims. One of these little bundles had been a curly headed five-year-old boy whose father is now in France offering his life for this country. I am told we took that child away from its mother because she could not give it proper attention. Let us appoint a committee of our most distinguished citizens to hand back that little bundle to its mother. We ought to let the juvenile home ruins remain so that future generations may learn something about our present day sham civilization.

These charred little bodies are the price we pay for electing men to office whose main qualifications are economy. They have to satisfy a whole county of we stingy voters. We citizens of Kent county brag because we have more churches and church members to the square inch than any county in the United States and yet our public institutions are a disgrace to civilization.

We have yet to learn that no one can qualify religiously who shirks his earthly responsibilities. The condition of our public institutions shows more clearly the soul of the community than its temples of worship. We have our eyes so firmly fixed on heaven that we walk right over the less fortunate. To a just God, our cries of "Save mine! Save mine!!" must sound like the grunt of a hog. If we paid a little more attention to what is going on about us here on God's foot-stool, and let God look after heaven, we probably would not have five little charred bodies in the back room of that undertaker's shop this morning. Costly temples everywhere we erect in the name of the lowly Nazarene. Then look at the ruins of the juvenile home, our fire-trap detention hospital and our disgraceful jail.

When the five little souls come before St. Peter and tell their story, I wonder what he will do to the next voters that arrive from Kent county.—G. J. JOHNSON.

Count that day's possibilities unfulfilled in which you have not sent in one new subscription to The Great Adventure Weekly.

Five Hundred Thousand paid subscribers for the Great Adventure (10 cents a year) will win the state for Single Tax, and keep it won.

These are the days of supreme sacrifice, but also of wonderful opportunity for the immediate achievement of that new order of society without slums, pauperism, prostitution, disemployment and degeneracy.

If someone asks, "What is Single Tax?" give him Henry George's brief, clear, and simple answer "Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It." Published in No. 17 of The Great Adventure Weekly, 50 cents a hundred. Keep a supply on hand.

If you have not paid for the copy of this paper that comes to you weekly, remember that someone else has—there are no free copies—all are paid for by the dimes and dollars of people who are denying themselves to advance the human cause of economic democracy and self-determination. You can reciprocate by paying for a few (or many) copies to be sent to other California voters.

The Great Adventure in California

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

San Francisco Office, 948 Market Street, Room 611

Labor Sure to Support Single Tax

J. R. HERMANN, Field Secretary of The Great Adventure, in THE CITIZEN,
official Union Labor paper of Los Angeles.

In last Sunday's Examiner appears an editorial calculated to inspire hope in the midst of this World Calamity, and bids us note the "after-the-war" program of the British Labor folks, also that the program outlined by the British Labor Party is one which will be followed by Labor everywhere.

Let us hope that this will be true, but why wait for British Labor to lead Democratic America? And why should California wait for the Eastern part of the United States or any nation on earth? Or why should we wait until after the war? Surely we can have a war program now as well as after the war. For whatever program will strengthen Labor during the war will be good for Labor after the war; and the decision of this war depends upon the strength of Labor everywhere, for Labor does everything.

Labor of England or New York would give half its life, so to speak, if it had the opportunity afforded Labor of California. Indeed, America's entrance into this whole bloody conflict was for the purpose of giving Labor, the world over, the opportunity which it has already won by peaceful methods in California—namely, the tools of democracy, the chief of which is the Initiative and Referendum. But that was only the means to secure the end. The end is Industrial Democracy. Now, while the British Labor program includes the tools as well as the end, we have already the tools and even a program for Industrial Democracy now on the ballot; one which does not have to wait until the war is over. Indeed, it is a "People's War Measure." Its slogan is, "Food Will Win the War and Food Comes from Land." Not from land held out of use by speculators, but from land in use held by freemen. On the ballot in California it will be known as the "Single Tax"; in Great Britain the Labor program is called "Land Nationalization." Fundamentally the aims are the same. Indeed, Labor of England will watch the result of our coming election in behalf of Industrial Democracy with as keen an interest as we are reading their remarkable Labor program.

Within the borders of California the tracts of idle land would nearly equal the size of New York; the most fertile land in the world. Not only do the people of the United States have a right to ask what we intend to do with this idle land, but the Allies of America have a right to ask the same question. To vote for the Singletax Amendment is the only patriotic answer we can give to the suffering world. Then Labor of California will have set the pace for Labor of England, instead of waiting for the slow process of England.

**FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the
Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to production of Food
and Homes for Returning Soldiers, count me in for _____
subscriptions to THE GREAT ADVENTURE WEEKLY**

\$ _____

Name _____

Date _____ 1918 Address _____

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Good Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

commece

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

260,332 Single Tax votes in 1916: 700,000 votes this year

Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
Editor, LUKE NORTH. *Associate Editors*, LONA INGHAM ROBINSON and HERMAN KUEHN.
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Vol. 2

AUGUST 17, 1918

No. 22

California Anti War Tax Investment Co.

Selling agents for 20,000,000 sunkist Idle Acres—

Bearing no War Tax and only nominally assessed
for county revenue.

This land more than doubles its value every ten
years *without the investment of a dollar for improvements!*

Put your money in California idle acres and *escape
the income tax!* Thousands have done this—why not
you?

(Don't worry about Single Tax. We are spending a million
dollars to misinform the voters, telling them Single Tax will
burden the farmer and home owner and relieve wealth from
taxation. We will fool them again.)

Put your money in idle land Now and sell it for
200 per cent increase when the war is over—

The returning soldiers will want land!

Buy now, while it's cheap.

We sell to anybody, anywhere. For terms and
plats, address—

The Slacker Acres Corporation

**SPECIAL AGENTS FOR SPECULATORS
IN WAR NECESSITIES**

When You Pay 70 cts for Bacon

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

When you pay seventy cents a pound for bacon, think of what the price would be under Single Tax. There are twenty million acres of idle land in California, which might be producing feed for hogs, and indirectly, bacon for the boys "over there," and for those of us who are "doing our bit" here at home.

When your grocer tells you the limit purchase of sugar is two pounds—at nine cents a pound—and your cafe man, and cafeteria man, and hotel man tell you one lump, or two at the most, is all you can have at a meal, think of those twenty million idle acres again. Much of the land will grow sugar beets. Sugar beets produce the sugar. When there are enough sugar beets, there will be enough sugar for all—not one lump, but all you want.

When you eat that dark, miserable-tasting bread, at the public eating houses—and find you can only have one slice—think again of those twenty million acres. Turn the idle land loose—make the present land hogs work it, or release it so others can work it, and there will be plenty of wheat, plenty of flour and plenty of bread—both for the boys "over there" and for you. It is necessary for Uncle Sam to limit the amount of flour and sugar and bacon used, under existing conditions. You can change the conditions, and help Uncle Sam, his soldiers, and every man, woman and child in the United States, by voting to put those twenty million acres to work.

You can make the land hogs, who hold these twenty million acres, come thru. You can make the lot hogs—the men who keep up the price of lots that are covered with weeds and tomato cans, while you pay the taxes on your flower-covered lot, and increase the value of the others—come thru, too. You can do it by voting for Single Tax. The tax on your little home will be less, under Single Tax. The tax on the idle lots will be more. What are you going to do about it?

The People's War Measure---to open California's natural resources to immediate Food Production

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Single Tax Is Economic Democracy

Singletax will bring nothing new or strange in practise or theory—only an extension of the present land Value tax and of the common principle of Fair Play. Neither of these can bring confusion to any honest business or useful occupation.

It will extend the land Value tax to the Idle mines and acres of speculators. Holders of Idle opportunities and resources will have to pay the same as land Users—and land Users will not be taxed for improving their land. Only privilege and monopoly will be Taxed.

This will take profit out of Idle land and throw open to Use millions of chances for productive enterprises by people of small means.

It will give anybody a home or a farm without landlord or mortgage.

It will solve beforehand the problem of the home coming of the Boys now "over there"—not by forcing every soldier out on the land regardless of his liking or his fitness, but by freeing the land to all who care to go upon it (as millions do) and keeping the labor market from crowding, wages high, with employers bidding for workers in every department of productive industry.

It will stop the Confiscation of public value by private individuals.

It will make All shares of the earth and its natural wealth, and will open all unused land to whoever will Use it.

Single tax will give Everybody a fair and equal chance in life—and this means to take away the Fear of Poverty, the cause of prostitution, and the need of crime to secure a livelihood. It will destroy the economic power of one man over another. It will write Economic Democracy, Self Determination, into the constitution of California.



Bill Cheatem has a dozen lots, and every lot is bare, except for weeds and rubbish that are scattered here and there; Bill Cheatem pays no taxes (or at least the tax is small) because Friend William argues that he gets no rent at all. John Browning has a single lot, on which his cottage stands, and John has spuds and garlic, that were grown with willing hands; and John must meet the taxes that Bill Cheatum doesn't pay, for California laws are fixed so John can get away. Old Cheatem is a dandy, and as sly as any fox, and he always has mazuma in his old mazuma box; but Single Tax will get him, when it wins this coming fall, and old Bill will pay his taxes or he'll have no lots at all. Oh, we're getting tired of scratching for the coin to pay his bill, so Cheatem's lots may raise in price, and make him richer still. We'll make him sell or work 'em, work the lots that now are bare, and we'll ship the beans and spinach to the Sammies "over there."

More Food for Allied Armies and People

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA: I congratulate you on the winning of the battle this year to put The Great Adventure Single Tax amendment on the ballot in your State.

Food will win the war and the success of this amendment will speedily release for use at least 20,000,000 acres of land in California. That would mean the addition to our food supply of 600,000,000 bushels of wheat a year or its equivalent in other forms of food. But the effect will be far greater than that in compelling the adjoining States to very quickly apply the Single Tax within their jurisdiction or lose their people and business to California.

There is no other economic measure proposed before the American people this year so important as the adoption of the People's War Measure in California, and there is no other possible state law that could contribute so much to the speedy winning of this great war against the Hun for the preservation of American political freedom.

W. S. U'REN, *Portland, Ore.*

Vancouver's Sham Democracy Exposed

Commenting on ALBERT E. KERN's Anti part of the Single Tax debate now running in *Orchard and Farm*, JUDGE JAMES G. MAGUIRE of San Francisco, former Congressman and associate of Henry George, writes:

"His quotation from the speech of Hon. F. C. Wade discloses the fact, hitherto unknown to me, that they have no Single Tax in Vancouver, but only a sham law requesting the landowners to contribute ratably the entire expenses of the government, but with an understanding that such contribution shall not be enforced as a tax, by sale of the land, in case of delinquency; which, of course, is no tax at all. So, while they go on collecting their rents, and unearned increment in other forms, they fall behind in their so-called taxes \$5,038,537. It further appears that Vancouver is without a democratic form of government, because, as stated by Mr. Wade, only taxpayers are permitted to vote on such questions, and therefore only 23,870 taxpayers are permitted to vote in Vancouver, and that, in fact there are only 22,000 people who own land there and that therefore the number of voters should be reduced to 22,000. This is on the theory that mere tenants, who pay all the rents, are not taxpayers, and should therefore not be permitted to vote on such questions. Rather a mediaval idea, since we have learned that they are the real taxpayers, and that their presence, industry and enterprise produces practically all rental values.

"But I notice that Mr. Kern ridicules this idea as 'mistaking the yearnings of one man for the earnings of another,' and he emphasizes this statement by printing it in capitals. But, in order to sustain his position, he must overthrow all works on Political Economy, that are worthy of the name, for they all designate the share of production going to the landlord as such, as an *Unearned increment*. So his illustration fits argument, but fits the other side of it."

Instead of the collapse of Vancouver being caused by Single Tax, the little of it applied there delayed the catastrophe. Real estate booms are caused by gambling for private profit in rent. When ALL the rent is left to the gamblers, the stakes are greater, the excitement higher, the boom sooner reaches its climax, and the collapse comes quickly. Vancouver took part of the rent, leaving less to be gambled for and delayed the collapse by that much.—L. D. BECKWITH.

Prevention May Be Better Than Cure.

From the EVENING EXPRESS, Los Angeles.

The heirs of the late Henry Miller, California's great cattle baron, as he has been called, are probably about to contribute \$10,000,000 in the way of an inheritance tax, to be shared equally by the State and National Governments. The valuation of the estate, for the purpose of imposing the tax, has been fixed at \$42,000,000. Of this sum, \$35,000,000 is subject to the burden of the inheritance tax.

More important than the news value of this interesting revelation of the power of the Federal Government to reach unearned wealth in the hands of the heirs of men who have created it, or directed the creation of it, is the question of the fundamental right and wrong underlying its acquirement and partial confiscation for public uses.

The fact that under undisputed law the Government, representing the people, takes it from those who, as against the rest of the world, legally possess and control it, and diverts it to its own use, is conclusive of the fact that in the last analysis the people control its possession and ownership.

There remains the question as to whether public control ought not to be applied further back at the point of acquirement of these vast estates. It stands to reason that the people will not always be satisfied with lopping off an unearned increment by means of an inheritance tax assessed to the heirs of the man whose power of acquirement is limited only by his financial power.

Our Financial Friends, the Enemy!

FINANCIAL NEWS, Coast Organ of the *Landlords and Money-Changers*.

General "Timidity" never won a great battle! Many of our Singletax friends recognize this, and in the campaign now on they present no compromise or half-way measure—"Home Rule" or "Single Tax Limited" propositions. We can also now fight in the open and know exactly what we are up against. It is now a straight issue by Single Tax advocates for the removal of all taxation "save that upon land values."

They have not only court-martialed and deposed General "Timidity," but Colonel "Caution," Major "Go Slow" and Captain "Safety First" have all been told to "beat it."

With the energy and enthusiasm of Crusaders they are in a fight, as they claim, to "open the land to the people, increase production, feed the Allies and help win the war." To them Single Tax is both a "war essential" and a war measure.

With the record of over 260,000 votes cast for their amendment at the last election they count on securing enough additional votes this time to put over "The Great Adventure." Singletaxers from other states are helping their California brethren.

Anti Singletaxers are accepting the challenge and also preparing to put their armies in the field. Relying, also, upon the justice of their cause, they feel safe in appealing to the conscience and business sense of California voters.

Financial News has been hammering away for many weeks trying to show its readers what the agitation for Single Tax means, what the dangers are and what must be done to meet the situation.

"The Crime of Poverty," by Henry George—probably his greatest and most popular speech, fully explains Single Tax. Ten cents a copy, one dollar a dozen.

Noren Punctures Anti Single Tax Bubble

H. W. NOREN, in *Greenfield Bulletin* (Pittsburg, Pa.)

If we had single tax tomorrow without the means to back it up, defend it, have it honestly and fearlessly operated, we would be in for one of the greatest disappointments of the ages. Single Tax is not a self-operating beneficence. It will take a high measure of public and official intelligence to apply and enforce it, not only at the outset, but forever. It will call for an amount of public vigilance and official integrity beyond anything now exacted of either the people or their rulers.—ROBERT D. TOWNE.

The above seems to call for some comment. Single Tax is a natural law. It needs no backing up. If we live in conformity with it, we, as a people, as members of the State, are well; when we violate it we are ill.

Man does not enforce health. It is natural to be well. When he violates the laws of health he becomes ill, and then gets busy to find out what caused his illness.

Poverty tells us that the State is ill. Involuntary poverty is not an individual disease, it is a State disease.

When a man is cured of an illness, whether it took him six years or six days, he is cured, he is well. He does not spend the rest of his days "enforcing" his health. If he tried it he would soon be ill again. He forgets his former illness and his present health and gets busy about other things.

Poverty is the chief disease of the State and comes from the fact that the State does not comply with natural laws.

If any State adopts Single Tax in one day, the disease poverty will disappear from the State at once.

It will not require years of education among all its members to keep it well. It will stay well until it violates the laws of its being.

Luke North has the right idea: to apply Single Tax to the whole State quickly.

That is natural. The sooner one gets rid of a disease the better. Nor is it necessary that everybody be educated to be a doctor for State diseases. If one doctor of State has the power to apply the remedy he can effect a cure as well as if ten thousand doctors attended to it.

Everybody riding on a train need not know how to run the engine. All they need is the power to make the train crew take them to where they want to go.

All members of the State need not be statesmen. All they need is the power to select men to run the State in conformity with natural laws, and power to oust them if they don't.

Millions of people enjoy books without the knowledge of making them. But they must be willing to pay the cost of making them, and the makers must know how to comply with such natural laws as govern the making of books. Likewise we may have a good State when enough of us want it to the point where we are willing to pay for it.

There have been doctors who prolonged diseases of their patients to their own profit. So there are Statesmen who keep the State ill to their own individual profit. Against the latter is the real battle of the Singletaxers. Our battle is not against ignorance, but against those who profit by State malpractice. Single Tax will clip them of their power and it can do it in one day.

If it is a crime to speculate in food, what is it to speculate in the source of food? If it is wrong to corner wheat, what is it to corner the source of its growth?

California Land Speculator Asks Congress to Tax Idle Acres into Use

WASHINGTON, July 16.—The plan of Henry George for taxing unused land into production was expounded to the ways and means committee of the house recently by H. H. Willock, a Pittsburg (Pa.) oil magnate; William Kent, of California, wealthy ex-congressman and member of the tariff board, and Jackson H. Ralston, attorney for the American Federation of Labor.

The speakers said that land monopoly ought to bear its share of war tax burden. Willock suggested that the boys fighting "over there" ought to be made to feel that they will have a stake in the land of their country and not be fighting "for a boarding house"; while Kent urged that a lot of rich men, like himself, should not be allowed to maintain useless servants and should not be permitted to hold valuable lands out of production, while people were in need of all the food and other products land can possibly be made to yield.

Ralston submitted a bill for taxing large land holdings on the theory that such a tax "falls on privilege and the use and enjoyment of lands of large value." In theory this is like the tax on the privilege of distilling whiskey. It falls on the privilege without regard to the use made of it. Ralston said:

"I wish to meet the constitutional difficulties raised by that provision in the constitution which requires that all direct taxes be apportioned among the several states according to population. My bill, I think, does this. It is not a tax on the land nor even on the value of land. The privilege of holding land enjoyed by certain individuals to the exclusion of all others is due entirely to an artificial agreement. Without the agreement it does not exist.

"The right to hold land is to be treated as a privilege and, while the land may not be taxed, the privilege—the franchise to hold and use—is fairly the subject of taxation. It differs in no wise from the franchise of a corporation whose property is taxed separately from the right to hold and control its property.

"A tax on unused mineral lands," he said, "would reach big steel and iron monopolies.

"You have taxed the income of the steel corporation moderately," said Ralston. "In this you are taking a little of their income or excess profits, but leaving it in absolute control of its right of monopoly. It is a monopoly, and it is a very dangerous one by reason of its ownership of tremendous beds of ore and by reason of leases of its beds of ore, only a small percentage of which holdings are being worked."

All the speakers called attention to the growth of tenantry in this country.

"In Philadelphia," said Ralston, "only 30 per cent, or perhaps less, of its families live in their own homes. A few years ago in Washington it was 25 per cent. In Baltimore it is between 25 and 30 per cent. In New York city the percentage of people living in their own homes runs down to an infinitely small one. Thus under our present system, which taxes industry and which does not particularly tax land monopoly, we have the land going rapidly into the hands of a comparatively few men; and unless something is done about it when our men return, conditions will be worse instead of better. Work will be harder to secure, the cost of living, including rent, will be higher, and they will have less opportunity to work out their economic freedom than when they went away."

The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles

San Francisco Office, 948 Market Street, Room 611

Henry George's Birthday Celebration

Henry George's birthday, September 2d, will be remembered in Los Angeles by The Great Adventure workers and sympathizers—place and hour to be announced in the next issue. The event is now being planned. An exceptional program of national, indeed of world-wide, interest is incubating. Adventurers from almost everywhere will be present and many will journey from afar to attend. The celebration will be in the nature of an international conference to consider the most expeditious means of exemplifying Single Tax to the world by enacting it in California in November, and will conclude with a Dollar Dinner at a popular hotel. Let the secretary know, by wire, phone, or mail, if you will come. Remember the address, 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, phone Main 4905. The commemoration will be in the nature of a war council. The issue will be, how best and quickest to strengthen the Allied armies and win the world war for democracy. Fight, work, buy Liberty Bonds and Thrift Stamps—these are first—then open the land to the unlimited production of food! How and when can the land—the 20,000,000 Idle Acres of California—be put to producing food and supplies, will be the leading question of this year's Henry George birthday celebration.

Are you doing something toward gaining 500,000 paid subscribers for this little weekly? The price is ten cents a year. You may subscribe for any number of copies, to be sent you in bulk or to separate addresses. We can furnish the names if you can't. Perhaps you can hand out a dozen or a hundred a week. Is this your fight? Then help it. With a 500,000 paid list we can gain 700,000 votes.

Henry George explained Single Tax better than you or I can. Let him tell it to your inquiring friends. Send for his little masterpiece "Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," in No. 17 of The Great Adventure Weekly. Fifty cents a hundred, ten cents a dozen. Let them work while you rest.

At the Los Angeles headquarters, 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, the Campaign Committee meets every Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock. All active workers of the Single Tax amendment are earnestly requested to attend.

Use the following blank. Send to the office for a pad of them. Help get this big little defender of economic democracy into the hand of Every Voter.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to production of Food and Homes for Returning Soldiers, count me in for _____ subscriptions to THE GREAT ADVENTURE WEEKLY

\$ _____

Name _____

Date _____ 1918 Address _____

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GR Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Commerce

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 2

AUGUST 24, 1918

No. 23

Labor Boosts Single Tax

From THE CITIZEN, Los Angeles.

Notwithstanding the fact that last Friday night was the hottest period after sunset ever recorded by the weather bureau of Los Angeles, Paul K. Mohr, the studious delegate from the Bakers' Union, held the undivided attention of the Central Labor Council while he delivered one of the best Single Tax talks ever heard at the Labor Temple. He related the experience of Raymond Robbins in the Klondyke, as told by the latter upon his return to Seattle several years ago. Robbins was one of a boatload of passengers that reached Nome just before the setting in of a long, hard Alaskan winter. After disembarking one of the passengers immediately commenced to search for gold along the beach. As the beach and all water within a certain distance of the shore is under Federal control, it was impossible to establish a monopoly. The pioneer miner averaged \$10 a day. There being no restrictions of any sort, many men commenced to mine in the same manner, each likewise averaging \$10 a day. This automatically became the wage scale for all classes of work in Nome, because if men did not receive this rate at the occupations to which they were accustomed, they would proceed to the beach and gather gold. Mohr pointed out that had the shore line been monopolized, as land is monopolized, the pioneers who went to the frozen North would have worked for a pittance in order to pile up huge fortunes for a few monopolists.

When the land of California is open to all, declared Mohr, immediately the job will seek the man instead of the man seeking the job, and the struggle for mere existence will be but a bitter memory. He made an earnest plea in behalf of the Single Tax constitutional amendment to be submitted to the electors of California next November, declaring that its adoption would make this State the most prosperous place in all the world. It would abolish wage slavery, inaugurate true brotherhood and usher in genuine democracy, bringing health and happiness and equality of opportunity to all the people.

At the conclusion of his thoughtful address Delegate Mohr was unanimously voted credentials to visit all unions of the city in behalf of the proposed Single Tax constitutional amendment and to raise funds for dissemination of its literature.

The delegates comprising the Central Labor Council are to be congratulated upon their unanimity in behalf of Single Tax legislation. Foolish and unjust taxation is a curse to Labor. It punishes industry and rewards rascality. Placing all taxes upon land values no longer is a dream. It is destined to materialize.

Slacker Acres Breed State Pest

L. D. BECKWITH, Pres. San Luis Obispo Co. Farm Bureau.

It is officially admitted by Commissioner Hecke and Squirrel Eradicator Jacobson, of the California Horticultural Commission, that the digger squirrel destroys \$30,000,000 worth of food a year—two and a half million a month, nearly \$100,000 a day!—in this State alone.

It has been demonstrated over and over again that the digger can be controlled—almost, if not entirely exterminated. Why, then, is he not?

Because of the immense holdings of Unused land held Idle for the increase resulting from the planting and squirrel fighting of land Users.

The Land Hogs are probably not intentionally treasonable in thus decreasing the production of the food that is to win the war; but they are interfering with the prosecution of the war and giving aid and comfort to the enemy; for food must come out of the land and food that is eaten by digger squirrels is lost as certainly as the sunk by a German submarine.

Last week I visited a good Nebraska farmer at Nipomo who has ninety-four acres of growing food.

But this man had to buy rabbit wire and fence his place to keep out the squirrels breeding on adjoining Idle land. That was money and metal and manufacturing energy and time that might have been devoted to the making of war material. Nor is that all. He has to walk his fence at least once each day to stop up the holes made by the squirrels who dig under from the Idle land.

It's an unpatriotic land policy that lets speculators interfere with the raising of food. Men who would interfere with enlistments and the draft would be jailed. Yet, for speculators' profits, men are interfering with this man's efforts to raise the food that will win the war. Across the road on one side is a tract of 400 acres, equally good land, but held out of the market for an expected increment. On the other side is another large tract. Both idle!

A man who lives near me put in a considerable crop of potatoes last year in response to the Government's plea for food. He kept his own squirrels down; but those breeding on a neighboring large tract held for speculation took his crop. This year he refused to try again. I know of one ten-acre fruit orchard that was completely ruined by squirrels bred on another one of these large tracts.

It is everywhere understood that it is the owners of these large tracts that stand in the way of a proper enforcement of the squirrel law; it is very noticeable that in driving about the county one sees few squirrels in sections that have been cut up and settled upon, but countless numbers of the pest in sections where these large tracts are.

Men go about with signs on their windshields reading, "Get that squirrel!" That is not half bad; but a more effective plan is to work for Single Tax and get that squirrel breeder—that slacker—that speculator who is interfering with the food production that is to win the war—that man who is harboring a swarm of underground pests that "sink" \$30,000,000 worth of food every year!

ARE WE ON THE BALLOT? WELL! Secretary of State Jordan reports Single Tax filings, 89,921. This is about 2,000 better than the filing of 1916—a good augur for November! Alameda broke all records, its 12,179 supplementary names validating 96 per cent. The legal requirement is 74,143. Now for the noes of November.

Labor Says Time to Act Is Now!

From the STOCKTON (*Cal.*) LABOR REVIEW.

The question as to the advisability of making radical changes during the war has been answered by the government itself and a precedent has been established in the taking over of the railroads, telegraph and express business as a war measure.

The wisdom of such action has not been seriously questioned. The railroad management has been in the hands of the government but a short time, but already the operating expense of 123 of the largest systems has been reduced without impairing the service.

When the question was first proposed many feared the government was undertaking too large a job. They are now strongly in favor of extending government control to other lines of industry, and it seems only fair and right to make at least one more experiment—that of opening to the public the idle acres of fertile land that are being held by private corporations. No one is allowed to use the land to produce foodstuffs, altho the world's supply of food is limited. In California alone there is estimated to be 20,000,000 acres of land lying idle that would produce enough food to supply almost the entire nation.

Just now would certainly be an opportune moment to take the step that is necessary to use this large acreage of land. The biggest thing in the world just now is humanity's war against German autocracy, but the second large question before the Californian is the land question. We are upholding our men in the trenches when we do our utmost to increase the food supply and to make life at home better and happier for them on their return.

Paid subscribers to this weekly (at 10 cents a year) is the first need of the Single Tax campaign—500,000 subscribers. Ten cents will pay for paper, printing, and mailing—everything but the eating expenses of the agents who go out for the subs. They get them readily enough—everybody, nearly, will subscribe. If you can do nothing better, send your contribution to the agents' fund—send quickly. The time is short. Five hundred thousand paid subscribers means 700,000 votes!



Listen, my children, and you shall hear, of the last bold ride of the profiteer: On the fifth of November, (the year eighteen), before the state's ballots had all been seen, the Land Hog was smiling but trembling with fear. Oh, he rode and he rode in his limousines, o'er millions of acres all covered with greens; o'er valleys and mountains of virgin soil, where man was never permitted to toil, or plant it to cabbage or beans. "I'll keep it," he argued, "until I can sell, these beautiful acres of meadow and dell, for double the shekels they asked me to pay, and never will sow it to barley or hay—and those who may need it can jump in the well." But the Yankees were hungry, the cupboard was bare, and when the word came from the great "over there," we fell into line with our ballots in hand, and voted a tax on the state's idle land—and the profit hog crawled in his lair.

Barry and "The Star" Out for Single Tax

"To enlarge the naval proving grounds at Indian Head, Maryland, and the auxiliary proving grounds across the Potomac in Virginia, President Wilson, on June 13, commandeered about 2,200 acres and placed it under the control of the Secretary of the Navy. In his proclamation President Wilson said the Secretary of the Navy had been unable to acquire the needed land by purchase, and therefore it was necessary to take it.

"Doubtless some ground hogs were trying to hold up Uncle Sam for a big unearned profit, taking advantage of the absurd law that permits land owners to put into their pockets land values created by population and industry."

The foregoing is from James H. Barry's *The Star*, San Francisco, one of the oldest independent papers in California still published. In the same issue (July) *The Star* publishes Judge James G. Maguire's finely appreciative review of "The First Step to World Democracy" (E. O. Jorgensen, Indianapolis) in which the Single Tax on Land Values is powerfully advocated as the basic immediate step toward that economic democracy for which the world war is being waged. Barry's and *The Star's* frank advocacy of the Single Tax on Land Values will be heavy artillery in the California fall drive against the Huns of Land Monopoly.

Antis See Green, One "Terrible Menace"

"The Single Tax Menace" is the heading of a little green folder sent out by the Anti Singletaxers. Does the color indicate the Antis' estimate of the California voters' mentality? If the color doesn't the contents do. Here are two of its leading statements, just as they occur in the Green folder:

1. "Single Tax is a terrible menace to *Every Property Owner*, because it would mean confiscation of property!"
2. "It would eliminate from taxation all improvements, personal property, money, and solvent credits!"

Do you get that? Now you see it; now you don't. The hand is quicker than the eye. Watch closely—again:

Single Tax is a terrible menace to property owners because it would confiscate property by relieving it from taxation!!!

That's as clear as a mud-puddle, isn't it?

Will the people vote against Single Tax on the theory that to untax property means to confiscate it? Are they as Green as that—as this little Green folder!

Singletaxers to Root Out the Land Hogs

The message of Single Tax is going to be carried to every man and woman in the State of California, and as a means to this end Singletax speakers and Singletax literature, on a wholesale scale, have been arranged for. This announcement was made last night at a dinner given in honor of the return to California of Gerrit J. Johnson, Singletax advocate.

The rent hog menace, recently exposed by *The Record*, at a time when ship-builders and others are compelled to pay \$30 and \$40 a month for two-room shacks, while thousands of lots are held for speculative purposes, is one feature of the evils of idle land that will receive careful attention in the propaganda work.

The fact that 20,000,000 acres of land are idle in California today, while the price of sugar, flour, meat and everything else that the land will produce, if tilled, has gone skyward, gives abundance of material on which to base arguments that Single Tax should be put into effect at once, says its advocates.—*Los Angeles Record*.

SHOOT 700,000 BALLOTS INTO THE TRENCHES OF LAND HOGS

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

Let's get right down to brass tacks. Everything we eat, wear and use comes from the soil. There could be no food, no clothing, no homes, no automobiles, no pianos, no chairs, no tables, no brooms, no toothpicks—if it were not for the soil. The soil was made for use, not abuse. It was made for all the people—not a few Land Hogs.

We're short of wheat. We're eating black bread. Our soldiers need more, and will continue to need more, and still we allow twenty million acres in California to lie idle. The soldier boys are giving their lives for Democracy. The Land Hogs are doing their part to starve them by withholding these twenty million acres from use.

The Hogs won't work it themselves. They won't let anyone else work it. They won't get off from it. They will sell it—if they get their price. Ah, there's

the rub! They want to pile up millions without plowing a single furrow through it. They want a profit without building a barn, digging a post-hole, or scattering a grain of seed. They want all this while the boys are in the trenches fighting, and wheat at \$2.24 a bushel, and everyone on flour rations. They want it, some of them, if the soldiers *starve*.

If that's patriotism, I'm ashamed of the brand. If you, the voters, are going to stand for it, I'm ashamed of you. If you don't go to the polls in November and vote these Land Hogs and war-time profiteers out of business, by slamming a Single Tax ballot into the box, and getting your neighbor to do likewise, I don't want to hear a kick out of you if bread goes to fifty cents a loaf, and gets so black and unwholesome that it gags you to eat it.

You've got the gun that will lick the Hun, right in your hand. You've got the ballot that can't miss the target. You can compel every Land Hog in the State to work his land, sell it to some one who will, or get off from it. The Yank, over there, doesn't care which he does. He wants the wheat. No one else cares which he does. But the Yank wants, and you want, more wheat, more flour, and more bread. And the only way to ge it is to shoot 700,000 machine gun ballots into the trenches of the Idle Land Hogs, and make them fish or cut bait. It's up to you.

Five hundred thousand subs. to this weekly now means 700,000 votes in November.



Gamble With Unearned Increase

From an article in *The Country Gentleman*, Aug. 3d, by E. DAVENPORT, sub-headed "Out of the War We May Develop a Land Policy of Service Rather Than Speculation."

The soldiers are doing some original thinking as to what and whom they are defending at the expense of hopes and prospects and at the sacrifice of life and limb. This kind of war not only levels; it sobers. The currents of thought and feeling run deep, and they will run deeper still before the struggle is over.

Among the fundamentals to be thought out none will figure larger than the ownership and occupancy of land—whether as a public blessing or as a means of private exploitation; and no feature of the problem will bulk larger than will that element of land values known to the economist as unearned increment. * * * *

It will be noted, however, that the home owners can not convert the unearned increment into cash unless they sell their home. No speculation is involved, therefore, unless Smith and his wife desire to spend their lives in developing homes for other people to enjoy—sacrificing everything for money, a choice which is perhaps their own to make. * * * *

This vacant dirty lot is making money for its owner night and day indefinitely. How long before the public will compel the absentee owner to clean up this property and do his share in making the neighborhood a decent place in which to live? How much longer will it be before the public will in one way or another confiscate possessions that nobody uses for any better purpose than dog-in-the-manger speculation, adding nothing, subtracting everything? * * * *

It is unthinkable that this condition can continue. The tax on the cost of food is too great, the handicap on home-building too severe. The injustice as between man and man is too obvious. The wreckage of idle families is too great. The damage to society is too sweeping. There is a real menace to democracy. * * * *

"Service" and "speculation" are two words that are going to confront democracy and every member of a society who may hope to endure the issues that will be raised by the war. Not until every man is willing to eat bread by the sweat of his own brow and to exist by service rather than by speculation upon natural resources or upon opportunities or upon the lives and labors of his fellow men—not until then is society safe or a real democracy possible.

That new democracy which will rise from the devastation of this greatest of all wars will think. It will think soberly about many things. It will remember that our ancestors came to this great new country in order to escape the accumulated hardships of war-ridden Europe, and to found a nation of equal opportunity. * * * *

If I receive the Republican nomination for Governor I will make my principal fight against Land Monopoly and Land Profiteering which is stifling the progress of the State and retarding California's full participation in the winning of the war.

If I am elected Governor and the Single Tax Amendment carries I will administer its provisions without hesitation and according to the purpose and intent thereof.

CHAS A. A. MAGEE.

Lands have no value whatever except the value given them by the community, and therefore no violence is done any of the equities if such community-given values are taken for the community defense or for any other community need.—*Testimony before the Ways and Means Committee of Congress.*

To Rout "Hun Within Our Gates"

By E. L. DUFFY, Sacramento, Cal.

THE GREAT ADVENTURERS: I have been called to the colors with the August draft and, therefore, find my work with you, in your campaign against economic injustice brought to a halt, almost before it is begun. I am writing to thank you all warmly for your untiring efforts in behalf of the nation's toilers, among whom it is my proud privilege to be numbered.

In honeyed phrases, our politicians, national and state, speak abstractly of justice and democracy, but you concretely point the way. They warn that we are unprepared for peace, yet they do not even intimate what the next step should be, while you name it and challenge the voters of California, at the coming election, to rise to the responsibilities of the hour, that the men now offering the supreme sacrifice in France may not return to a cold and thankless shore.

During my civilian days one thought has been constantly uppermost: To exactly what will these boys return; to vociferous, well organized and extremely sentimental welcomes on the one hand, and locked up natural resources on the other? Will they be forced to bid to Monopoly tomorrow, for a chance to labor, against the very men who noisily welcome them today?

The responsibility devolving on the folks remaining at home to reshape the nation's economic life, that full and free opportunity may be offered to our returning warriors fell upon me day by day with ever increasing weight.

It was that which sent me to your Los Angeles office; it was that which induced me to get in touch with you at San Francisco, and that, doubtless, would have propelled me whole-heartedly into the storm center of your campaign this fall.

By nothing short of that can the folks (safe at home), prove themselves worthy of the sacrifice of those whose feet will tread the crimson way thru shot and shell, thru poison gas and liquid fire, to a glorious death in a world-wide struggle against autocracy.

While our crusaders are routing the Hun from the trenches in Europe, the folks at home must join a new crusade, and rout the economic "Hun within our gates." Conscience will permit of nothing less; nor will it suffer any compromise.

When the Men from "Over There" Come Home

These and kindred questions are bound to be asked when the boys come marching home. War and death are not the only topics of thought and of conversation in the trenches, and when these soldiers, who have risked and suffered everything, come home to us again they will ask and require that every man who stayed behind shall justify his stewardship. They will know what they have fought and bled for, and they are coming back not as dependents but as masters of the country they have saved. In that day, if not before, the swivel-chair speculator will be on trial, figuratively speaking, for his life.—E. DAVENPORT in *Country Gentleman*.



The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies
—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution
providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4903
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611. Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

STATEMENT OF TREASURER

Balance on hand February 1st, 1918.....	\$ 33.80
Received from all sources.....	16,555.41
Total	\$ 16,589.21
	DISBURSEMENTS
Obtaining signatures and precincting petitions.....	\$ 7,127.47
Printing, Stationery, Advertising and Propaganda expenses	5,952.29
Postage, Express and Telephone.....	826.11
Rent, Office Help and Services.....	1,134.35
Office Furniture and Supplies.....	458.37
Traveling Expenses	485.75
Sundry Items	453.62
	\$ 16,437.96

Balance on hand July 31st, 1918..... \$ 151.25

Of this amount \$6,748.00 was contributed by California residents, the balance coming from all over the world, even from such distant points as South Africa, Australia, and China.

Respectfully submitted, T. A. ROBINSON, Treasurer.

The California Henry George Celebration

The Henry George birthday celebration at Los Angeles will consist of an all day reception to visitors at the headquarters of The Great Adventure, a noon luncheon, committee meetings and general conference with the State Campaign Committee, concluding with a Dollar a Plate War Time Dinner at the Angelus Hotel beginning 6:30 p. m.

Everybody who is coming should notify Secretary Lona Ingham Robinson as early as possible. Those from out of town should give the train and hour of arrival—probably an auto or two will be drafted to meet them. Rooms can be reserved at the Angelus at moderate rates.

September 2d is the date—Labor Day. The confident feeling is that this gathering will be historic as antedating only by a few weeks the first enactment of a straight Single Tax amendment into a state constitution. The program will be in keeping with this expectation. It will be a patriotic people's war council, planning how to open twenty million slacker acres to producing food for the Allies—how to hasten the downthrow of autocracy and end the economic cause of war.

Use the following blank. Send to the office for a pad of them. Help get this big little defender of economic democracy into the hand of Every Voter.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open "Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to production of Food and Homes for Returning Soldiers, count me in for _____ subscriptions to THE GREAT ADVENTURE WEEKLY

\$ _____

Name _____

Date _____ 1918 Address _____

556.05 Commerce

GR

Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

260,332 Single Tax votes in 1916: 700,000 votes this year

Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
Editors: LUKE NORTH, LONA INGHAM ROBINSON, and HARVEY E. WESTGATE.
Year 10 cents. Entered in Los Angeles Postoffice as second-class matter. Phone Main 4905.

Vol. 2

AUGUST 31, 1918

No. 24



People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker
Acres---idle mines and oil wells---be-
hind the Boys at the Front!

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR! Work and vote for Single Tax
Constitutional Amendment

LISTEN, you friends the "enemy," you who come under the head of Big Business, it is time to consult about the Idle Acre situation:
You, Mr. Banker!

You, Mr. Department Store Man!

You, Mr. Anybody and Everybody, who opposed Single Tax in 1916!
Where do you stand Now?

Heretofore, you have openly fought Single Tax. You have published your names at the bottom of articles written to misinform the small store keeper, the small home owner, the salaried man, the common laborer.

You have said things which you do not say now over your own signatures. You seem to hesitate to tell the 500,000 war workers in this State that it's better to allow 20,000,000 acres to lie idle, while wheat is \$2.24 a bushel, than to put those acres to work.

You seem less eager to tell these 500,000 war workers that it is better to pay nine cents a pound for sugar, and be held down to a few pounds a month, than to cultivate the beet land and have *more* sugar at a *lower* price.

Apparently, you are not so ready now to advise these 500,000 war workers that it is better to pay \$30 a month for a tent house or two-room shack, than to put the hundred thousand idle lots under Single Tax, which would compel their owners to build houses, or sell, or "get off." Conditions have changed since 1916. What was "radical"

then is only timely, a recognized public necessity, now, and we are ready to credit your reticence as a change of heart, as your patriotic response to the greatest need of the Allies, overshadowing your speculative financial interests.

At least we do not find you opposing Single Tax openly—yet. Are you only waiting? Well, we are not. If you are going to use your influence on the side of land monopoly we want your names. If you stand for the land hogs and rent profiteers and scarcity of food—in war times especially when our boys “over there” need the food, and the 500,000 war workers here need the food and the houses, we want to tell those 500,000 workers about it—tell them who you are, give them your names and addresses.

And what is more, we are going to tell them about it. We are going to give you free advertising. If you want these things you should be proud to want them, and not ashamed to have your name appear in print. We are going to place you on record. Either you are for the boys over there, and the 500,000 war workers here at home, or you are against them. You are either for putting the idle land to work and producing more food, and providing more houses, or you are against such a program.

Which is it, Mr. Department Store Man, or Mr. Banker? Tell us, and we'll print the answer so that all who run may read. We want to smoke out the fellow who is friendly to the Kaiser, and who wants to see 20,000,000 acres of California soil allowed to remain idle in the hands of the speculators, while the price of food soars higher and higher.

“Choose ye which ye will serve.”

What Shall We Do for Returning Soldiers?

E. C. KERSEY in *Newport (Cal.) News*.

Some of our wise ones have suggested draining of swamps, reclaiming deserts, buying cut-over timber land that the timber thieves cannot use, then survey for settlers, all at Government expense, then sell to each soldier all that he wants and furnish the settler cash to equip and stock his ranch, all at small interest and long time.

This solution of the problem is not very complimentary to the soldier. After standing the privations and dangers of trench life, to be colonized, shunned as a leper, sent to some distant swamp, desert, or stump farm, to endure pioneer life, does not look good to me.

Now that the Single Tax amendment is a sure thing for the next election, let everybody and all our cousins vote for this amendment, and open a few million acres of the best land, close in, which would be more suitable for homes for our saviours. Everybody needn't go on the land, but so many will be glad to go, that there will be plenty work at good wages for those who prefer city life.

“Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It,” by Henry George; 10c a dozen.

Watch Bankers of That Sort

The Antis are trying to scare you by quoting "bankers" who say Single Tax would force the calling of all loans—only they dare not mention the names of any such bankers. They know that such a remark from a banker would convict him either of ignorance or of having made loans on speculative values and therefore (in either case) being an unsafe custodian of your funds.—L. D. BECKWITH.

Mr. Beckwith's reminder of the attitude of some bankers toward Single Tax in 1916 is quite timely. They openly said that Single Tax would jeopardize the safety of their depositors' money—some of them said that. Are they going to say it again?

If any are, we would like to know and tell our readers about them. We will report their names and addresses promptly, giving them the full benefit of our growing circulation. Thus, for instance:

"Mr. John Wallingford Jones, President of the Eighth National Bank, warns the public that the funds entrusted to him have been invested in such a manner that a rational system of taxation to take wind and water out of speculative land values, will imperil his loans."

The law forbids banks to loan on speculative land value, and the actual value-for-use of land is regulated by population—only depopulation can destroy it.

We want the name and address of every California banker who is willing to admit publicly that the deflation of speculative land values will endanger his securities, or cause him to call in loans.



By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

Hank Smith has built a bungalow, upon a little lot, and what that little home contains is all that Hank has got; he works to make it beautiful, and toils for weary hours, to cultivate his garden patch and irrigate the flowers. And every year they bleed him, some thirty bucks or so (as tax to meet the city's needs), the while his posies grow; they tax his picket fences, and they tax his little shed, and they grab some tax for garden tools, and tax his humble bed. But J. V. Ogden Armour, who has gobs and gobs of cash, and owns three hundred lots or more, that harbor weeds and trash, gets off with just a fraction that Hank Smith has got to pay, and he 'lows that all is lovely as he motors on his way. But Old Hank keeps up a thinkin', as he wields the hoe and ax, and he finds he has a remedy in good old Single Tax; and this fall he's going to fix it so that Armour pays his share, so he'll never pass the buck to him, because his lots are bare.

"The Crime of Poverty" by Henry George, tells Single Tax and the great need for it. Ten cents apiece, one dollar a dozen. George's most interesting public lecture.

Can We Carry the November Election?

To carry this election is only a matter of presenting the truth about Single Tax to *every voter*—only! An overwhelming majority of the California electorate is as anxious to do the right thing—regardless of personal interests—to see justice and decency prevail in economic and industrial life, as you or I are.

Even the Anti Single Tax monopolists and speculators are not monsters of selfishness—their view is limited, they misunderstand.

Social justice, chiefly, is a matter of understanding—and here and now that popular understanding of Single Tax can be attained in California by the circulation of 500,000 copies every week of this little paper with so Big a purpose. Subscriptions are coming, but they should pour in faster, faster. Are you doing your utmost—to carry California? The price is 10 cents a year. You can subscribe for 10,000 copies (we can supply the names)—or any number less or more. You can send a donation to pay agents to go out and get subscriptions. Almost everybody willingly subscribes as soon as it is put before them. Hurry, friends—the time is so short, the issue is so fraught with human progress—with democracy—with Food for the Allies, success for our armies and the quick, decisive defeat of Hun and Hunism! Hurry!

\$80-Acre Commission for Selling \$40-Acre Land

LUKE NORTH, Los Angeles: I have read the debate on Single Tax in the last two issues of *Orchard and Farm*. Mr. Kern devotes much space to Vancouver and blames the chaos of a busted real estate boom to Single Tax.

I ask him to name a single useful occupation that would receive any benefit by added taxes, which he would impose on them to relieve the holders of idle land. Ask him if real estate men and their commissions are necessary where there are homesteads to be got? The Anti Singletaxers fear the land will go back to the State. Ask him if land was cheap enough and the opportunity for a good living sure, would not every rancher in California have his relatives and friends come out at once? Would it be necessary to pay 30 or 40 per cent commission to a real estate agent to induce our friends to settle in California? If Mr. Kern questions such high commissions, refer him to the report of the Commission on Land Colonization and Rural Credits, page 53.*

ED. PETERSON, *Laton, Cal.*

***EXCESSIVE COMMISSIONS TO AGENTS**—It took more money, time, and ability to sell land for \$150 to \$300 an acre than to sell it for one-third these figures. To meet the greater expenses commissions rose from 5 per cent and 10 per cent to 20 per cent and 30 per cent and even 40 per cent of the selling price. In one colony where the land before subdivision was offered for sale for \$40 an acre, the agent's commission after subdivision was \$80 an acre.—*Report of Commission on Land Colonization.*

VOTING YOU OUT OF BUSINESS: Every knock at Single Tax is a vote for low wages and slow business—oh, yes, and high rents. It is for those high rents that the Antis are “working” the newspapers for free space to fight Single Tax—at the publishers’ expense, and the merchants’ and the wage earners’ expense. Spot the papers that are thus battering your wages and business profits down.—L. D. BECKWITH.

One Less "Curse of California"

Commenting on ALBERT E. KERN's Anti part of the Single Tax debate now running in *Orchard and Farm*, JAMES G. MAGUIRE of San Francisco, former Superior Judge and ex-Congressman, friend and associate of Henry George, writes:

His heading, "It would ruin our farmers," is false and is in no way supported by his argument. It is true as he says that the incompetent farmer will often make a dismal failure in producing corn on soil of a given character, while a competent

farmer will make a handsome profit raising corn on land of the same character, but no Singletaxer claims that Single Tax will equalize the results of the efforts of the incompetent and the competent, nor would that ever be desirable, but it would strongly encourage all to become competent by keeping continuously open to all the natural opportunities for independent self-employment, on equal terms.

Mr. Kern says, "We know positively of a case within the last few months of a man from New York who became interested in buying a tract of land in California, but when he found that the Singletaxers were at work in this State, he promptly withdrew his offer and refused to become interested in a State where there was a possibility of adopting the Single Tax system," and then sapiently asks: "Would you infer from this, that the Single Tax would cause our idle land to be settled upon?"

His intending purchaser is evidently a speculator, one of the very class of landholders that, for nearly sixty years, have constituted the "Curse of California," and whom it is the purpose of the Single Tax Amendment to drive out of the State, with no invitation to return. If this intending purchaser desires to buy land for use, we expect him to return after election and get all the land he wants to use, on fair and reasonable terms.

Even if it were true, as stated by Mr. Kern, that the large tracts of land were acquired by the early settlers in California for use and not for speculation, the complaint of the Singletaxers is that they are now being held for speculation, to the manifest injury of the State, and the impoverishment of its useful inhabitants, and that the only effective remedy for that monopoly is the Single Tax. Nor is it important, if it be true, that the big land holdings have been largely subdivided, so long as the land is held out of use, or incompletely used, for speculative purposes. The people who are deprived of the opportunity to use it productively, and the people who are oppressed by the high prices of commodities resulting from the limitation of opportunities for production, are in no way interested in whether they are being robbed by one man or by a combination of one thousand men, except that possibly it would be safer for the public to have monopoly powers lodged in one man than divided among and merged in a thousand equally greedy monopolists.

P. S.—It seems strange that Mr. Kern's article could have been written for publication while the Henry Miller estate case is enlightening the public on land monopoly in California, and while the legal quarrels of the Kern County land monopolists are still fresh in the minds of the people.



Kaiser Would Back Idle Land Trust

It is rumored the California Idle Land Hog Co. is about to incorporate for \$5,000,000,000, buy all the land now used in growing foodstuffs, add it to their holdings, and boost the price to \$10,000 an acre.

The Idle Land Hog Co. only owns 20,000,000 acres, whereas the California Land Producing Co. owns about 10,000,000 acres. Under present conditions land is held at an average of \$1,000 an acre, but with the entire State in the hands of the Idle Land Hog Co. it would be a simple matter to boost the price to five or ten thousand bucks an acre.

The plans of the company are not fully matured, but it is rumored church and school property will not be molested, in case the Idle Land Hog Co. decides to take over the State.

Briefly, the plan of the Idle Land Hog Co., so far as taxes are concerned, is to take all tax off land value, and put it on labor, houses, garden tools, Ford cars, etc. One of the arguments used by a member of the company, in seeking capital for the project, is that soldiers (our Yanks) must have food, regardless of what it costs, and the present, therefore, is a good time to put the screws to the common people.

Kaiser Bill has already sent word that in case the company is incorporated he will take at least half of the stock, as he believes such a move would make it a cinch that he and the Clown Quince can win the war.

Los Angeles Council Hits Business---Favors Idle Lots

LOS ANGELES, August 14.—The City Council today passed a new taxing ordinance hitting everything except the *52,000 vacant lots inside the old city limits*. The unearned increment, on which there is no War Tax, is the only "industry" that escapes the new \$500,000 levy to replace the income formerly derived from saloon licenses. All earned incomes and profits from legitimate business and professions are to be licensed and tagged like saloons, fortune tellers, and dives. Only land speculation is left untouched. The new license ordinance is notice for all productive business and useful occupations to keep away from Los Angeles, where only Land Gambling is encouraged and fostered by the city authorities.

California Tax Collectors Overlook Millionaire Row

SACRAMENTO, August 19.—State Controller John S. Chambers, in his completed report for 1918, gives the assessed value of all personal property in California as \$425,000,000. He must have omitted Pasadena's millionaire row—but it is quite certain that the flivver and the graphaphone in no poor man's house was overlooked. This personal property tax is a tragic joke. There are fifty people in Los Angeles and San Francisco whose combined personal property far exceeds in value the \$425,000,000 returned by the fifty-eight county auditors.

The 20,000,000 idle farming acres of California now pay taxes on a valuation of \$225,447,000, while the 10,000,000 cultivated acres are assessed at \$563,618,000. The same proportion rules in the taxation of vacant lots and improved lots.

Labor's Vote Will Open the Idle Acres

J. R. HERMANN, in *The Citizen* (Union Labor Organ)

Each advance Labor has made has met with every form of intimidation, coercion and misinformation its opponents could put forth. I can remember when any one who dared to suggest the initiative and referendum was regarded as a harmless fool or dangerous anarchist.

One by one these names became familiar thru continuous use by the enemy, until the public no longer feared them. The reform was enacted, and we wondered why we hadn't done it before. Then it slides into the past and the same opposition confronts the new advance.

And now comes the Anti Single Tax Association, representing the speculators and monopolists, who live from the spoils of Labor, to warn the wage-earners of California what a monstrous animal the Single Tax is. I advise every wage-earner to read one of the Anti's little green leaflets, instead of going to a movie, to get a good laugh.

For instance, it says: "Land is the ultimate security of all investments." Bully! You hit a bullseye there, Mr. Landlord; that's just why we Labor folks want some of it. You have had it long enough. But we also want you to have the privilege of sharing the labor on the land with us.

The Antis say that if Single Tax is enacted "industry would cease as an electrical current is diverted." Just think of industry ceasing because Labor was no longer obliged to give the most of its product to a landlord for the privilege of working! We have been wanting that sort of industry to cease ever since slavery began. When it ceases, men will be free.

And then, joke of all jokes, this leaflet tells us that "Most of us live a purely hand-to-mouth existence with nothing set aside for a rainy day." Marvelous revelation! Who is to blame? Then we haven't much to lose, Mr. Monopolist. Why should we worry? Is a hand-to-mouth existence all you have to offer us for our loyalty to you? Time for a change. Labor's ballot for the Single Tax Constitutional Amendment to free the natural resources of California to Labor, will bring the change—not in some vague Future, but at once, now!

Ten Per Cent Hold Most of the Land Value

Single Tax is not on land, but on land value. It will not burden those who use land, but only those who collect rent from the Users, and the land monopolists and speculators. The land value of California is now held by less than ten per cent of the people, of whom many are non residents. The burden of Single Tax will fall on them, and reduce their incomes considerably, until the value becomes distributed among all the people, when it will fall on no one very heavily—all the good land being in use, the smallest amount of tax from each user, in proportion to the value of his holding, will give an ample fund for public expenses—much larger than is now extorted indirectly from the comparatively few land users and the many workers and home renters.



The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

*State Headquarters, Los ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611. Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

From Gerrit J. Johnson's Fourth Letter

The announcement that the Single Tax amendment in California has reached the ballot and will be voted upon this coming November comes as a bugle call to all who are dissatisfied with our present social conditions, rich and poor alike. It almost sounds like a command for us to stop talking, fall in line and do something. Just think, if we obey this command we may see the fruits of free land in our own life time; fate seems to be working with us.

Read what General Wm. Gorgas says in his article on crippled soldiers: "It is desirable that as many as possible return to farming. This will be difficult to bring about if they have to return as mere farm laborers. Few farm owners and operators will feel they can afford to hire a man with one arm or with one leg. The disabled men must be given an opportunity to return to the land as farm owners." This big problem discussed by General Gorgas is now up to the American people to solve. Will the men who are fighting to keep our flag floating over a free land be permitted on their return to squat on California's twenty million unused acres, or will we push them on to the land profiteer who will offer them a piece of land on the installment plan?

We sing the song "Keep the fireside burning until the boys come home." How about the thousands who will never come home? Are we going to see that their dependents are going to have a fireside by offering them free land? Remember, a fireside with a mortgage is no fireside. Yes, let us sing the song "Keep the fireside burning 'till the boys come home," and then let us see that they really have a fireside; let us put action in our song.

Let the Secretary know early if you are going to put your knees under the Henry George Dollar-a-Plate War Time dinner at the Angelus Hotel next Monday evening, September 2nd, at 6:30 o'clock. It will be a big event, with your help; you can hardly afford to stay away. (Telephone Main 4905).

Drop into headquarters, 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, any time during the day. The Campaign Committee will be in session all day. It invites your advice. If the campaign is not conducted as you think best, the fault may be yours for withholding your counsel at the proper time.

WANTED—The name of every one in California who will circulate a few or many copies of every issue of THE GREAT ADVENTURE Weekly—from two copies to a hundred. Write at once, stating how many sample copies you can positively be relied upon to pass out in your neighborhood. Order as many as, but no more than, you can surely use.

FOR the success of THE PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to open the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California to production of Food and Homes for Returning Soldiers, count me in for _____ subscriptions to THE GREAT ADVENTURE WEEKLY

\$ _____

Name _____

Date _____ 1918 Address _____

Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

260,332 Single Tax votes in 1916: 700,000 votes this year

Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
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Vol. 2 SEPTEMBER 7, 1918 No. 25

People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker Acres---idle mines and oil wells---behind the Boys at the Front

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR! Work and vote for Single Tax Constitutional Amendment 19

Soldiers to Improve Idle Acres for Profit of Speculators and Monopolists

The men in the trenches, who have been freed from the economic serfdom to which some of them have been accustomed, will, it is likely, return to their homes with a new view and a new impatience of all mere political phrases, and will demand real thinking and sincere action.—PRESIDENT WILSON.

Irrigation and land experts, large land owners and prominent business men are to meet in Los Angeles to further a plan, already under way in San Francisco for having the soldiers cultivate the Twenty Million Idle Acres of California for the benefit and profit of the monopolists and speculators who now hold them. The suggestion is that even while in training the soldiers of liberty and democracy might be working on the Idle Acres, draining, ditching, planting, etc.—enormously *increasing their value*, every million dollars of such increase to be retained by the private owners.

Also when the soldiers return by the millions from Europe they shall be set to work, not on their own land, but to improve the land of the Barons of California and further boost its price so that the settlers lured here by the real estate agents can be cleaned out of their little savings in the shortest possible time and become tenant farmers of the big landlords.

Another section of the plan to get labor and the land together is to sell the returning soldiers tracts of land for 200 times more than the cost of same to the monopolists and tie up the soldier-farmers with

long time contracts calling for "low interest," that will keep them and their heirs in perpetual "economic serfdom" to the Land Barons.

These are the plans now being matured for the home coming of the men who have made the world safe for Democracy!

What Will the Boys Say When They Come Back?

By L. D. BECKWITH, Atascadero, Cal.

WHAT WILL THEY SAY?—What will our boys say when they come back—those that *do* come back, after making the world safe for democracy and so raising the value of every acre and lot in California, and find that we are asking increased

prices for the land they saved and are still *privately pocketing* the increase in values their blood bought? We wash our hands of their blood. We want that increase put into the treasury for the good of *all*.

IT IS EASY—Of course in most cases people oppose Single Tax thru ignorance. Yet the difference between us and our opponents is easy to tell. They want the increased land values that will result from the crushing of Kaiserism by the sacrifice of our young men to go into *private pockets*. We want no blood money. We would put that increment and *all ground rent* into the treasury to pay pensions, build schools, etc.

NO BLOOD MONEY FOR US.—Why not call it blood money—this increased land value and increased rent that will result from the crushing of Kaiserism? It will be bought by the blood of the boys "over there." Those big landowners and realty dealers who officer the Anti Single Tax league are fighting to have this continue going into *private pockets*. We want it in the public treasury for pensions and in schools for the blind and maimed.

OUR HANDS ARE CLEAN.—If the boys by giving their life blood save our land values from the slump that would follow a Hun triumph, we Singletaxers are at least clean handed. We are not opposing the plan to tax these increments into the public treasury where they will be available to pay the boys' pensions.

...ARE YOU SPONGING ON THE BOYS?—If the Kaiser wins, land values will go down. If the boys whip the Kaiser land values will go up. If the boys shed their blood to hold up and even to raise the land values of California, when *very few of them own any land at all*, what about the man who stays at home and opposes the proposal to tax land rent into the public treasury to pay the pension bills and other war expenses?

OUR SOLDIERS OWN LITTLE LAND.—You know that a German triumph in this war would lower the value of every lot and acre in California. Are you cheering the boys "over there" because you know that whipping the Kaiser will put more land increase and higher rent in your pockets? The Singletaxers would tax the rent into the treasury to pay the bill. What are *you* going to do about it?

WANTED—The name of every one in California who will circulate six or more copies of every issue of THE GREAT ADVENTURE Weekly—from two copies to a hundred. Write at once, stating how many sample copies you can positively be relied upon to pass out in your neighborhood. Order as many as, but no more than, you can surely use.



Who Pays the Taxes Now?

"But it doesn't seem right to let the big office buildings, money, bonds, mortgages, franchises, big corporations, and the personal property of the rich go untaxed," says the man who feels that Single Tax is right yet doesn't fully understand it. The answer is: They go untaxed now! Look at the report of the State Controller for 1918. It gives the improvement assessment as \$75,000,000 and the value of personal property as \$425,000,000—a total of \$500,000,000 as being the value of all the millionaire homes, business blocks, manufacturing plants, theatres, exclusive clubs, fashionable hotels, banks, trust companies, money on deposit, rare paintings, art treasures, old Persian rugs, antique jewels, diamonds, limousines, private yachts, steamship lines, warehouses, etc., etc.—only.

Why, that is only the value of the property held by the 2,800,000 middle-class and poor people. There are from one to two thousand rich people in California, the combined holdings of any hundred of which would far more than total this entire state assessment.

If you doubt this, go to the county assessor's office and inquire for yourself. You will find the known millionaires listed at about \$50,000 each! You will find hundreds of instances like that of M. H. de Young, the San Francisco Chronicle millionaire, who in 1916 paid taxes on \$40,000 worth of personal property! Everybody lies to the assessor, and everybody knows it—only the poor people haven't much to lie about. The rich man's annual perjury is worth while—to him—but of course it throws the tax burden on the small home owner and business man.

"But the big buildings—their value can't be hidden. They should not go untaxed!"

But the owners of them do go untaxed. The tax on all buildings is added to rent. The people who occupy the premises pay all the tax on all buildings. The tax on office buildings is paid by the tenants; that on residences, hotels, apartment houses, by the occupants and renters thereof.

The owners of great wealth are not now taxed (except by the Federal income tax)—they are not now taxed by the California taxing machinery on more than five per cent of their holdings, while the small business man and home owner are taxed at top notch on all their property.

"But you're letting public service corporations go scot free! Is that right?"

They go scot free now. The taxes assessed against them are paid by their customers, the public. Judge Maguire of San Francisco has a letter from the secretary of the Railroad Commission plainly stating that the taxes charged against the utilities are allowed by the Commission in fixing rates and charges. The taxation of public service corporation earnings is only tax farming. The tax is paid by the consumer, just as the tax on office buildings is paid by tenants.

"Single Tax will rob the poor of their homes," cry the land monopolists and speculators. But the poor have no homes—69 per cent of the people of California have no homes—they are renters—and rent goes up as land values increase. About a third of the people have *mortgaged* homes or are buying homes on installments that will keep them scrimping and pinching for many years. The number of unmortgaged homes is less than 5 per cent. Single Tax will lower rent, lift the mortgage, and free the idle lots and acres so that every family can have its own home.

Anti Single Tax Junker Ideas

Commenting on ALBERT E. KERN's Anti part of the Single Tax debate now running in *Orchard and Farm*, JAMES G. MAGUIRE of San Francisco, former Superior Judge and ex-Congressman, friend and associate of Henry George, writes:

Mr. Kern's statement that the Single Tax would ruin the farmers, is in striking contrast with the minority report of the Committee on Ways and Means, of the

Mississippi Assembly, before which a Single Tax bill is pending, wherein the Chairman of the Committee, supported by three other members, says: "Farmers have been taught by college professors, who get their orders from higher up, to believe that Single Tax would ruin the farmers, and place still heavier burdens upon them," and then proceeds to show, very logically and completely, that it would have just the contrary effect.



Single Tax would not eliminate the real estate broker, but it would immediately make his profession useful and respectable. He would become an assistant to the intending settler, instead of, as now, an "old man of the sea" on his shoulders, steering him into the quicksands of speculative profits, thru the suggestion of probable increase of unearned increment. The present day "real estate man" is indeed doing everything possible to induce the intending "settlers to locate upon the soil of California," except the one thing needful, namely, to get off his back and cease to demand a speculative price for that land. With the assurance that he can have the land that he needs for use, any average "real estate man" will have no difficulty in getting plenty of settlers.

Again, as is common with all Anti Singletaxers, he dwells upon the complaint that all public service corporations would be exempt from taxation, whereas, in truth, as shown by a letter from the California Railroad Commission, now in my possession, and heretofore published, all of those taxes are officially passed over to the customers of those corporations, and paid by them, under the present law.

He still thinks the Single Tax proved itself a failure in Vancouver, but that failure, if there has been such, has resulted from the failure, as shown in his July article, to enforce the Single Tax; and that failure, according to his own article, resulting from the fact that they have not a democratic government there.

His Junker ideas should be labeled: "Made in Germany".

The first duty of every American is to do his utmost to help win the war. The need of the war is food—then money. Save food, buy Liberty Bonds and War Stamps—then work to open California's 20,000,000 Idle Acres to immediate production by passing the Single Tax amendment in November. The most effective campaigning for this is THE GREAT ADVENTURE Weekly. Help it reach Every Voter! Subscribe for one or a thousand copies, at 10 cents each. We need 500,000 paid subscribers, and that will mean 700,000 votes for Single Tax.

The Anti Single Tax League has ready access to the daily press. When it speaks, hundreds of thousands hear, or see. Its confusing misinformation is read by Every Voter. Justice can only win when it, too, can speak to Every Voter—when it can carry the Truth to every home in California. That is our task—*your* task. Help us to gain 500,000 subscribers. That will mean a million readers. That will mean success at the poll in November. Do your bit—Now!

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Commerce

Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 2 SEPTEMBER 21, 1918 No. 26



People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker Acres---idle mines and oil wells---behind the Boys at the Front

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR! Work and vote for Single Tax Constitutional Amendment 19

What Single Tax Will Do for California

Open 20,000,000 idle acres, mines and oil wells, to immediate use.

Increase the quantity and lower the price of food.

Break up the big idle estates and end land monopoly.

Bring millions of settlers to build homes and produce supplies—on land that can be paid for by crops grown on it.

Halt the alarming increase of tenant farming; abolish city slums.

End high interest, usury, mortgage foreclosing and land speculation.

Lower rent and make it easy for everybody to have his own home without a mortgage.

Untax labor products, crops, stock, furniture, autos, homes, buildings and all useful business.

Tax the idle acres and the big down-town values—throw the tax burden on privilege, monopoly, and speculation.

Invite factories and new business enterprises: discourage idleness and reward useful work.

Give the returning soldier the choice of a city job at good wages or a farm close to town.

Speed up production to feed and equip the Allies and win the war!

Make California first in Patriotism, Population and Prosperity!

Develop the State's inexhaustible idle resources *By THE PEOPLE AND FOR THE PEOPLE.*

Kaiser Is Largest Land Owner in Prussia---Junkers Are All Rent Collectors---Autocracy Is Rooted in Tenancy and Maintained by Land Monopoly

Extracts from United States Immigration Commissioner Frederic C. Howe's standard book on the German economic system.

The great *feudal estates* still persist in Prussia, and a half-feudal system is the economic mold of Germany.

There is no suggestion of popular control over the government, and popular opinion does not influence the ruling classes. The constitution of the state reposes the government in the hands of the *great land owners*.

Prussia, and thru Prussia, Germany, reflects the economic interests of the *great estate owner or Junker*.

The Junker is a class by himself. He uses his power to shift the taxes on others.

The Junker would limit elementary education; he would check ambition, and prevent the peasant from acquiring any knowledge that will awaken dissatisfaction with his station in life.

From the *great estate owners* come the chancellors and higher officers of the empire. The Kaiser is of the Junker class; he, too, is a *great landlord*.

The King of Prussia (Kaiser Bill) kept his feudal *landholdings*. His *private estates are the largest* in the empire.

The bulk of the Prussian revenues come from domain lands—(rent taken from land users by land owners).

The ruling class in the city are the *real-estate owners* and house owners, and just as the Junker rules Prussia in his own interest, so the *few real estate owners* mold the city to their own interest.

Single Tax Debate in Great San Francisco Daily Paper

Announcement in San Francisco Evening BULLETIN, September 6th.
(THE BULLETIN is one of the famous Liberal daily newspapers of the world, with great influence and large circulation.)

What about Single Tax? Are you prepared to vote intelligently upon the amendment to be submitted to the voters in November?

Are you aware of what is being done by the national organization of Single Taxers—their enormous and really clever propaganda that has the one great end in view of making California the first single tax State? * * *

Yes, they are making a big drive, these serious-minded men and women who believe in taxes on land values only. They polled over 260,000 votes in 1916, and they say that they will poll 70,000 more at the next election and win the State.

But here arises a vital question: Do we want taxes levied on land values alone? What are the arguments for and against this kind of taxation?

Beginning next Saturday THE BULLETIN will publish a debate between Albert E. Kern, president of the Anti-Single Tax Association of California, and Arthur G. Brodeur, official spokesman for the Singletaxers in this State. The subject of the debate will be, "What Would Single Tax Mean to California?"

Professor Brodeur, who is a member of the faculty of the University of California, will lead the debate on Saturday, and Mr. Kern will answer on Monday, to be followed by Professor Brodeur, and so from day to day. This controversy will be highly interesting and educational, and every voter should follow it closely.

Shall Returning Soldiers Toil for Land Monopoly?

We are all agreed that "private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable," and our program is founded upon that conviction.—PRESIDENT WILSON.

While Canada is condemning private lands for returning soldiers, and California will vote in November on a Land Values Taxation Amendment to limit land holding to those who use it, will President Wilson assist the plan of California land speculators to have their idle holdings improved at public expense, so they can sell out to returning soldiers at enormously increased values? The Government is to improve certain lands, enhancing the value of all adjoining lands. Returning soldiers then are to buy land at the increased value, on "easy payments" that will keep them or their children in "economic servitude" for twenty or thirty years. The private owners of idle acres in Ventura county, in the Big and Little Creek regions, near Victorville, around Lake Elsinore, at Whitewater and in Palo Verde Valley, are calling upon the Government to spend large sums in their districts in anticipation of the great demand for land when the "boys come home."

Will President Wilson endorse that plan, as he is called upon to do in resolutions adopted at Los Angeles September 6th?

Will President Wilson endorse any plan to further strengthen the "right" of speculators to drive people off the unused earth; to corner the source of food and supplies; to recognize the false doctrine of private ownership of idle land, the monopoly holding of natural resources?

WILL CONSCRIPT IDLE ACRES FIRST

CHICAGO, August 26.—The administration's attitude toward conscription of labor was outlined before the Association of Commerce today by Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor.

"The time may come," he said, "when we will have to conscript workers of mines, forests and factories, but in the name of democracy, these men shall not be conscripted until we have first conscripted the places where they shall work. This democracy will not stand for the conscription of men to work for the profit of other men. The conscripted man must work for Uncle Sam and no one else."

For the cause that will end the cause of war—
If it's *your* cause, what will *you* do for it?

For the cause that will speed the winning of the war,
Feed and equip the Allies,
Lower the price of food the world over—
Is it your cause? What will you do for it?

Is It Your Cause? For the cause that will hasten the Kaiser's fall
And end autocracy at home;
End the "right" of anyone to keep others off unused earth,
End the power of a few to live on the toil of the many—
For the cause that will end the cause of war
What will *you* do?

—LUKE NORTH.

WANTED—The name of every one in California who will circulate six or more copies of every issue of THE GREAT ADVENTURE weekly from now until election. Write at once, stating how many sample copies you can positively be relied upon to pass out in your neighborhood. Order as many as, but no more than, you can surely use.

The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.

WEEKLY MEETINGS (Visitors welcome; workers should attend regularly)—San Francisco: Bay Counties Campaign Committee, Wednesdays 8 p. m. Los Angeles: State and Southern Campaign Committee, Friday 7:30 p. m. Only seven weeks left of the campaign!

700,000 Ballots to Bring Down Food Prices

J. R. HERMANN in *The Citizen* (Union Labor Organ)

The rusty key has turned at last, even in old Japan.

All the rest of the world has been turning inside out; Old Japan seemed the only hope of old Status Quo and his comfortable profiteers.

Yes, it was in Old Japan the starving people revolted the other day against the profiteers. They were hungry.

But that was in Japan, where they do not vote. We are going to have an election here very soon. The same question is before us that not only confronts Japan, but the entire world. It is Food, Food, Food—“Food will win the war.”

California has twenty million idle acres of food held by groundhog profiteers—dogs in the manger, who will not eat the hay or let the cow eat it. These men do not need to buy up the wheat and beef after it is produced to corner it. They throw a guard around the base of supplies, and lo! the world is theirs. They own the land, they got there first, and they not only corner the supplies in time of war, but they hold in the hollow of their hands the destinies of the human race.

We have a ballot that has cost the human race oceans of blood. It is the most powerful weapon to right the wrongs of the world known to man. We do not need to resort to old world ways of violence. We can vote. This is no mockery or sham. We have the greatest opportunity of an enlightened people to end the unnatural divorce between man and land—less than two months away. You can vote for the Single Tax amendment to the State Constitution. What are you doing to enlighten your neighbor about it? Just drop a line to 203 Tajo building and ask for speakers or literature, and then send in a little change. Just voting is not enough. Your vote is only one. You need your neighbors' votes.

TWO CALIFORNIA CITIES RAISE LAND VALUE TAX

To offset loss in revenue thru closing the saloons of Redwood, the assessment of land values (exclusive of improvements) will be raised 45 per cent. This was practically determined at an adjourned meeting of the city council Monday night. The increase in the assessment rolls is considered low, as compared to other municipalities that have gone “dry” during the year and suffered a loss in revenue.

San Mateo has practically decided to raise its assessment roll 65 per cent on land values and 15 per cent on improvements, a total increase of 80 per cent against 45 per cent for Redwood.—*Redwood City (Cal.) Democrat.*

Use the following blank. Send to the office for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in for
_____ subscriptions (at 10c each) to The Great Adventure Weekly 203 Tajo Bldg
Los Angeles

Name _____

\$ _____ Date 1918 Address _____

36105
G R Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Commerce

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS OCT 7 1918

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Vol 2

SEPTEMBER 28, 1918

No. 27



People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker Acres---idle mines and oil wells---behind the Boys at the Front

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR! Work and vote for Single Tax Constitutional Amendment 19

LIKE DOGS IN THE MANGER

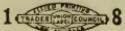
The Anti Singletaxers say the 20,000,000 idle acres are mostly arid and worthless, have very little value and nobody would locate on them if they could. Then why worry? The Single Tax is on value and if these idle acres have no value they will not be taxed. If nobody wants them to farm or build a home or a factory on, then the present owners can't lose. The Single Tax is on value—no value, no tax.

People wouldn't leave the city and go out and settle on these 20,000,000 idle acres if they had all the chance in the world, say the Anti Single Tax speculators. Then what are you afraid of? Why do you want to hold on to them? What good are they to you if nobody else wants them? You don't use them.

You are holding them because others need them—only they don't need them so badly as to make them willing to work all their lives for you in order to get a bit of them. Let's have the Single Tax and see who wants them. You wouldn't hold them a minute and pay even the nominal tax you do pay if you didn't expect to rent them or sell them on installments to poor people whose need for them will soon be so keen that they will be driven to work these acres on *your terms*. If that isn't true why do you fear Single Tax—a tax on land *Value*?

The three million people of California pay 187 million dollars a year in taxes for their state, city, county, and town governments.

Let no one think he escapes taxes because he pays none to the tax



U of Ills Library
Urbana Ill

collector. Those who pay least in that direct way pay, as a class, nearly all taxes, which are easily shifted from the rich to the poor.

Whoever rents a house, flat, store, office, garage, or pays anything to a landlord, pays the taxes charged against the landlord. The landlord pays the taxes to the state, but he collects them from his tenants.

It is the same with mortgages. Taxes are assessed against the lender, but he charges them up against the borrower.

If the state should tax gasoline the consumer would pay the tax.

But the land values tax, freeing the unused earth, can't be passed on, because when prices get too high, on a free earth, more consumers become producers. Every evil mends itself, under Freedom.

Have Any California Banks Been Loaning Their Depositors' Money on Fic- titious Land Values?

The Singletax Amendment, if made a law of California, will not work a hardship or injure or impair the securities of any legitimate banking business. On the contrary, it will so stimulate all industrial and commercial lines that all legitimate business and banking will be greatly benefited. If all the millions now tied up in idle lands and vacant lots were diverted into the avenues of trade and commerce we would not have to depend upon the tourist and the "sucker" for our prosperity. What we need most are pay rolls and food producing acres—not uninhabited subdivisions and idle squirrel breeding ranches.

If, however, any of the banks of this community have been lending money on fictitious real estate values; if any have been extending commercial credits based on land holdings—which are not liquid (convertible into cash inside of four months) and should never be even considered as the basis of commercial banking credit; if any have been encouraging land speculation by lending their depositors' money for the purpose of holding land out of use until such a time as the activities of the community enhance its value to a point where it may be unloaded at a big profit to the speculators without labor or improvement on the land; if, in fact, as some persons have suggested, any of the banks have engaged in land speculation, then they have been guilty of conduct unbecoming a banker, have probably violated the banking laws, their depositors and stockholders had better know it, and at once.

Let us face this issue before election, for if such things do exist at all, they have existed for a long while and the Single Tax will have nothing whatever to do with them—except to cure them.

Single Tax means to pay your land rent to the State instead of to a private land lord—it will do away with land lords. Single Tax means no land lords.

Who Pays the Taxes Now?

According to the State Controller's reports (based on local assessments that tax Used land five times higher than adjoining Idle land) the farmers who cultivate the 10,000,000 acres of California are assessed for one-sixth the value of all California land, tho they actually hold but one-twenty-sixth of the total value. The figures for 1916 are:

Assessed value City and Town Lots.....	\$1,064,495,000
Assessed value "The Curse of California," 20,000,000 Idle Acres.....	225,447,000
Assessed value 10,000,000 Cultivated Acres.....	563,618,000
Total value all assessed land (except corporation land).....	\$1,853,560,000

Article XIII, Section 2, of the Constitution, reads: "Land, and the improvements thereon, shall be separately assessed. Cultivated and uncultivated land, of the same quality, and similarly situated, shall be assessed at the same value."

This provision was an original part of the Constitution adopted May 7, 1879—since which time land and improvements have been "separately assessed," but land "similarly situated" has not been equally assessed.

It is the common well known practice of California assessors to value improved land five times higher than unimproved land of equal selling value. Thus the clear provisions of Sec. 2, Art. XIII, have been effectively annulled, in spite of the fact that land and improvements have been technically assessed in separate columns. The result is, of course, that land users have been paying five times more than their just share of the land values tax. This is a situation that can be cured by enforcing the constitutional law. It is being cured by the adoption of the unit or mathematic system of assessment, now in effect in Los Angeles county.

Farmers Pay One-Fifth of Improvement Tax!

At present, however, it is only fair to estimate that the working farmers of California, who actually hold and cultivate one-fourth the area of the assessed land and one twenty-sixth of its value, are paying five times more than their fair and legal share of the land value assessment.

In addition to the grossly unjust assessment on the very small land value actually held by the working farmers of California, they are now paying taxes on an improvement assessment of \$139,882,000. This is one-fifth of all the improvement value assessed for city and county revenue!

Can it be true that the houses and barns and ditches of the 80,000 California farmers are worth as much as one-fifth of all the sky-scrappers, banks, hotels, marble palaces, private clubs, apartment houses, department stores, theatres, manufacturing plants, business blocks, and millionaires' residences?

Yet these are the figures compiled by the Controller for 1916: Value of improvements on acreage, \$139,882,000; value of improvements on city and town lots, \$556,867,000. That is at the rate of one to five, isn't it?

As a matter of cold fact the farm improvements of California are not worth one-twentieth of the improvement values of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, and San Diego—yet the farmer pays one-fifth.

Then as to the assessment on personal property and money. Figures showing the amount assessed against the farmer are not at hand, but the proportion is not hard to guess. Everything the farmer possesses in excess of \$100 of personal property is fully taxed—his furniture, stock, crops, tools, auto, watch, and if he has any money in bank pretty nearly everybody knows it. All are fully assessed.

The Great Adventure in California

To free the Land to the People, open the Source of Food, provision the Allies—end the Cause of War!—by Initiative Amendment to State Constitution providing for the Single Tax on Land Values—Election November 5, 1918.

State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.

WEEKLY MEETINGS (Visitors welcome; workers should attend regularly)—San Francisco: Bay Counties Campaign Committee, Wednesdays 8 p. m. Los Angeles: State and Southern Campaign Committee, Friday 7:30 p. m. Only seven weeks left of the campaign!

Do the Rich Pay the Personal Property Tax?

How is it with the city millionaire? Take the case of M. H. de Young, owner of the San Francisco Chronicle, of the Chronicle building, and of one of the most palatial homes in California. In 1916 he took solemn oath to the assessor that his entire newspaper plant was worth only \$25,000, that his rare paintings cost only \$2500, his safe \$50, his two pianos \$300, his four automobiles \$1450, that he had only \$3000 worth of credits—that the total value of his personal property was \$41,050. On that basis he is paying his personal property tax. It is a fair sample of all personal property tax payers who have anything to hide or evade.

It is the same with money and credits—if the farmer has any they are duly assessed. In the city it is different. The State Controller reported that in 1916 \$5,996,000 of money and credits was assessed in Los Angeles city, but the bank statement for that year showed \$194,093,000 on deposit in the banks—a difference of \$188,000,000 in money untaxed.

What's the use of these personal property and improvement taxes? They are only assessed against the small home owner, the small business man, and the farmer who cultivates his land. Single Tax will abolish them.

Against the Single Tax on land values the owners of the big business blocks cry "What! You're not going to tax our sky-scraper office building?" And the misinformed "fall for it." The truth is that owners of business blocks are *not now taxed on their improvements*. Their tenants are the ones taxed. Every penny assessed against a building in which there are tenants is added to rent.

Henry George, the "Prophet of San Francisco"

The world wide application Single Tax is of California origin. It was born of a wonderful book, more widely read and translated than any other except the



Bible—"Progress and Poverty"—which was written and first printed in San Francisco by a printer, editor, publisher, and newspaperman who was born in Philadelphia, September 2d, 1839, and came around the Horn at the age of eighteen to seek his fortune on the Golden Coast. The "fortune" he found was the natural law of economic development, which is now distorted by land monopoly. Others had seen the truth, Turgot in France, Dove in Scotland, etc., but it remained for Henry George to state it clearly and show to the whole world its justice, its "benefit for the average man, without influence or privilege," and that it "embodies in real fact the highest conception of social justice and of right dealing without respect of person or class or particular interest."

Use the following blank. Send to the office for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

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Vol. 2

OCTOBER 5, 1918

No. 28



People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker Acres---idle mines and oil wells---behind the Boys at the Front

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR! Work and vote for Single Tax Constitutional Amendment 19

On These Truths Voiced by Pres. Wilson Is Based the Single Tax Demand for Equal Access to Idle Land

Extracts from *The New Freedom*, by WOODROW WILSON (Doubleday Page & Company)

We are all caught in a great economic system which is heartless. (p. 10)

America is not a place of which it can be said, as it used to be, that a man may choose his calling and pursue it as far as his abilities enable him. (p. 14)

No country can afford to have its prosperity originated by a small controlling class. The treasury of America does not lie in the brains of the small body of men now in control of the great enterprises. (p. 17)

Society is looking itself over, in our day, from top to bottom; is making critical analysis of its very elements, questioning its oldest practices as freely as its newest. (p. 29)

We are in a temper to reconstruct economic society. I doubt if any age was ever more unanimously desirous of radical and extended changes. We are upon the eve of a great reconstruction. (p. 30)

To me, these counsels of do-nothingism, these counsels of sitting still for fear something would happen, constitute the most extraordinary argument of fatuous ignorance. (p. 37)

The modern idea is to leave the past and press onward to something new. (p. 42)

The world has a habit of going on—and of leaving those behind who won't go with it. The world has always neglected stand-patters. (p. 54)

There are mills in which men are made to work seven days in the week for

twelve hours a day, and in the three hundred and sixty-five weary days of the year can't make enough to pay their bills. (p. 155)

America was created to break every kind of monopoly, and to set men free, upon a footing of equality, upon a footing of opportunity. (p. 54)

I take my stand absolutely on the proposition that private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable. (p. 172)

Honest American industry has always thriven, when it has thriven at all, on freedom; it has never thriven on monopoly. (p. 191)

For we pray first of all, "Give us this day our daily bread," knowing that it is useless to pray for spiritual graces on an empty stomach, and that the amount of wages we get, the kind of food we can afford to buy, is fundamental to everything else. (p. 198)

Monopoly never was conceived with the purpose of general development. It was conceived with the purpose of special advantage. (p. 215)

I don't care how benevolent the master is going to be, I will not live under a master. That is not what America was created for. America was created in order that every man should have the same chance as every other man. (p. 207)

We design that the limitations on private enterprise shall be removed, so that the next generation will not have to become proteges of benevolent trusts; so that we shall taste again the full cup, not of charity, but of liberty—the only wine that ever refreshed and renewed the spirit of a people. (p. 222)

Men who cry out most loudly against what they call radicalism are the men who find that their private game in politics is being destroyed. (p. 242)

When at any time the people of a commonwealth find that their government is not suitable to the circumstances of their lives or the promotion of their liberties, it is their privilege to alter it at their pleasure, and alter it in any degree. That is the foundation, that is the very central doctrine, that is the ground principle, of American institutions. (p. 244)

It is time that property, as compared with humanity, should take second place, not first place. (p. 275)

What I am interested in is having the government more concerned about human rights than about property rights. (p. 274)

In the readjustments that are about to be undertaken in this country not one single legitimate or honest arrangement is going to be disturbed. Every man who wants an opportunity and has the energy to seize it, is going to be given a chance. There is to be an opening of the doors of opportunity. (257)

Full Text of Proposed Single Tax Amendment

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

On and after January 1, 1919, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected hereby.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Argument for Single Tax Amendment

As printed in the *State Pamphlet*.

This is the People's War Measure. It will open California's twenty million idle farming acres, mines and oil wells, to immediate food production—to home builders who would go on land that no one else is using—and prevent the crowding of the labor market at the end of the war, millions of soldiers finding homesites, farms, or jobs at good pay awaiting their victorious home-coming.

It will remove what President Wilson named "the economic barriers" that keep labor and industry from access to natural opportunities, and make "self-determination" possible between man and man.

It will take profit out of land monopoly and end speculation in the source of food. Land and natural resources are for use. This measure will prevent gambling in them and make it impossible for any one to keep intending users from going on unused land.

It will cut up vast estates and cure "the curse of California"—its twenty million slacker acres—and attract millions of settlers to land at prices that can be paid out of crops grown, or from saving in land rent now paid to private landlords.

This it will do in a natural way, without the least confusion to anything but speculative values. Land value is now separately assessed and the complete official and technical machinery therefor is already in successful operation. It will merely abolish the "absurd, costly, and unsatisfactory" taxation complexities complained of by every home owner and business man, and criticized by the State Tax Commission.

It is claimed that Single Tax will untax money, credits, bonds and accumulated wealth. Then why do the holders of these so bitterly oppose it—in spite of its great necessity as a war measure?

All wealth (money, bonds, securities) must first come out of the land, and the reason that these are now in the hands of about three per cent of the population is that they own ninety per cent of the land value of California.

The Single Tax is on land value and will fall upon those who hold that value—on the three per cent.

It is said that public service corporations now pay the state tax which, under single Tax, will fall back on the people. The truth is that the corporations merely collect the tax (plus a good commission) from the people. Single Tax will stop this indirect tax-farming and put all taxes on the fair open basis of those paying who take, in exact proportion to value of their holdings, while farmers, home owners, labor and business will be untaxed on everything but the very small land value held by them.

Single Tax is the basic step in the social reconstruction which began when the railroads passed from private profit to public service. It will put land holding on the same high plane. It is only speculation and monopoly "interests" that fear and oppose the justice and harmony of Single Tax.

Official Ballot Title

19	LAND VALUES TAXATION. Initiative measure adding Section 15 to Article XIII of Constitution. On and after January 1, 1919, requires all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, be raised by taxation of value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; declaring war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1½, 1½ and 1a of same Article not affected hereby; asserts intent of amendment to prevent holding land out of use for speculation and to apply to community purposes land values which community created. Repeals all constitutional provisions and laws conflicting herewith.	YES	X
		NO	

Taxes on Production no Part of Single Tax Plan

By JAMES G. MAGUIRE of San Francisco, former Superior Judge and ex-Congressman, friend and associate of Henry George

Section 14 of Article XIII, of the Constitution, as it now stands (taxing railroad freights, fares and franchises), is not a proper part of the Single Tax System, and should not be preserved, in any Single Tax Amendment. It imposes an indirect tax on producers, as the California Railroad Commission has rightly decided, and this tax is charged up to the ultimate consumers, and, in the case of passenger fares, to the traveling public.



Attempts are made to justify that section, on the ground that the railroad business is a monopoly, and that the franchise involves the control and use of certain land, which is true, but a railroad is a public service organization, and the true method of dealing with it should be upon that basis. It should be paid for the service which it renders and interest upon any money which it is obliged to invest in rendering that service, while the investment continues, but it should have no title to the land it occupies, but only a right of possession for use, and should neither be required nor permitted to pay taxes on it to be in turn added to freights and fares, which is simply fooling the people by a sort of camouflage and compelling them to bear the entire burden.

Besides, a tax on transportation is not a tax on monopoly, but a tax on one of the processes of production, for the production of a commodity is not completed until it is delivered to the ultimate user or consumer, and, of course, the ultimate user or consumer must pay all costs of transportation, which are simply added to the price of the commodity. This can in no way be avoided under Section 14, or under any similar provision.

The same reasoning applies to the taxation of all other public service enterprises and they should therefore all be owned and operated by the public; and until they are so owned and operated, the people should be protected from their extortions by a just regulation of their charges, but not by any fictitious system of taxation, which must always result in further burdens upon the people.

The holding of title to land and the appropriation of the unearned increment therefrom is not a right inherent to the individual, but is purely a privilege granted by the State and Nation and as such should be paid for by the so-called owner.—*Testimony before the Ways and Means Committee of Congress.*

A tax of 4% on the estimated land values of the nation would produce a revenue of four billion dollars, and in addition to that it would put to work millions of idle acres producing food. Over one-third of the productive land of the nation

Statement of ownership and management of The Great Adventure weekly. Published and owned by Golden Press, Los Angeles, Cal. Editor, mgr., bus. mgr., Jas. H. Griffes (pseud. Luke North). Mortgagees, bond holders, etc., none. (Signed) Jas. H. Griffes. Sworn to Oct. 20, 1918, before W. H. Dutton, notary, whose commission expires Dec. 24, 1919.

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Vol. 2

OCTOBER 12, 1918

No. 29

THE FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN WILL END GERMAN AUTOCRACY—BUY A BOND
SINGLE TAX WILL END LAND AUTOCRACY AT HOME—WORK AND VOTE FOR LAND VALUES
TAXATION AMENDMENT 19.

CALIFORNIA PRIVATE LAND EMPIRES

California's Private Land Empires stand invulnerable against the present tax system.—REPORT OF STATE IMMIGRATION COMMISSION.

We are all agreed that private monopoly is indefensible and intolerable, and our program is founded upon that conviction.—PRESIDENT WILSON

IDLE ACRES are the "Curse of California"—twenty million of them! The State Land Commission reports eighteen million idle farming acres and there are easily two million acres more in vacant city lots and suburban tracts.

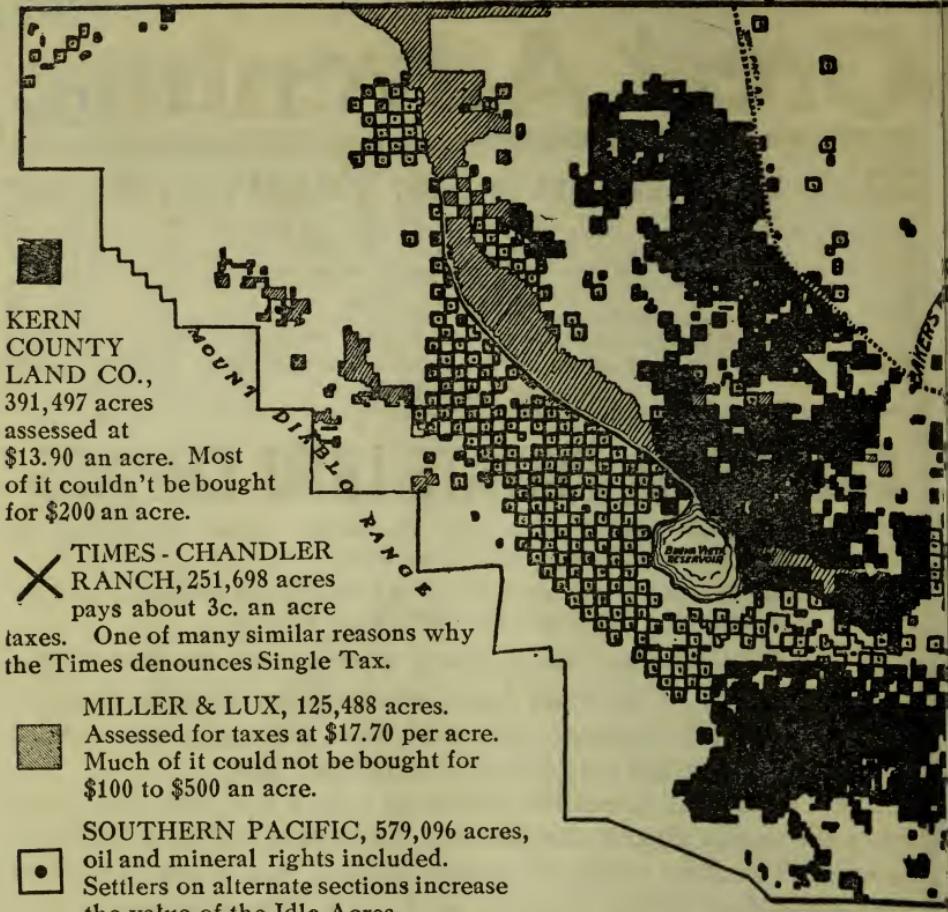
The Times tells its readers there are only a few idle acres—but there are nearly 100,000,000 acres in California and only 3,000,000 people! The Anti Single Tax monopolists, in a warning against the Single Tax voting strength, says: "A very small proportion of our population owns land."

Turn the page and see the map of Kern County—only a sample of conditions about the same, or worse, in most of the fifty-eight counties. The "Curse of California" blights all parts of the state. Every county has its three or four Private Land Empires.

In Siskiyou the Central Pacific has 665,000 acres, over a third of all the taxed land in the county, on which it pays less than ten cents an acre in taxes.

The Southern Pacific owns about a fifth of the timber land of California. One firm owns a million acres of farm land. In San Bernardino county the S. P. holds 650,000 acres. In Merced county Miller & Lux own 245,000 acres. These are only sample facts—the tale is too long to tell in figures. Every county has

FOUR "PRIVATE LAND E



Kern County, tho not half as large as San Bernardino and smaller than San Joaquin, contains some of the richest oil fields in the World, much farming land, population of 40,000! — and is chiefly owned by Four Land Monopolists.

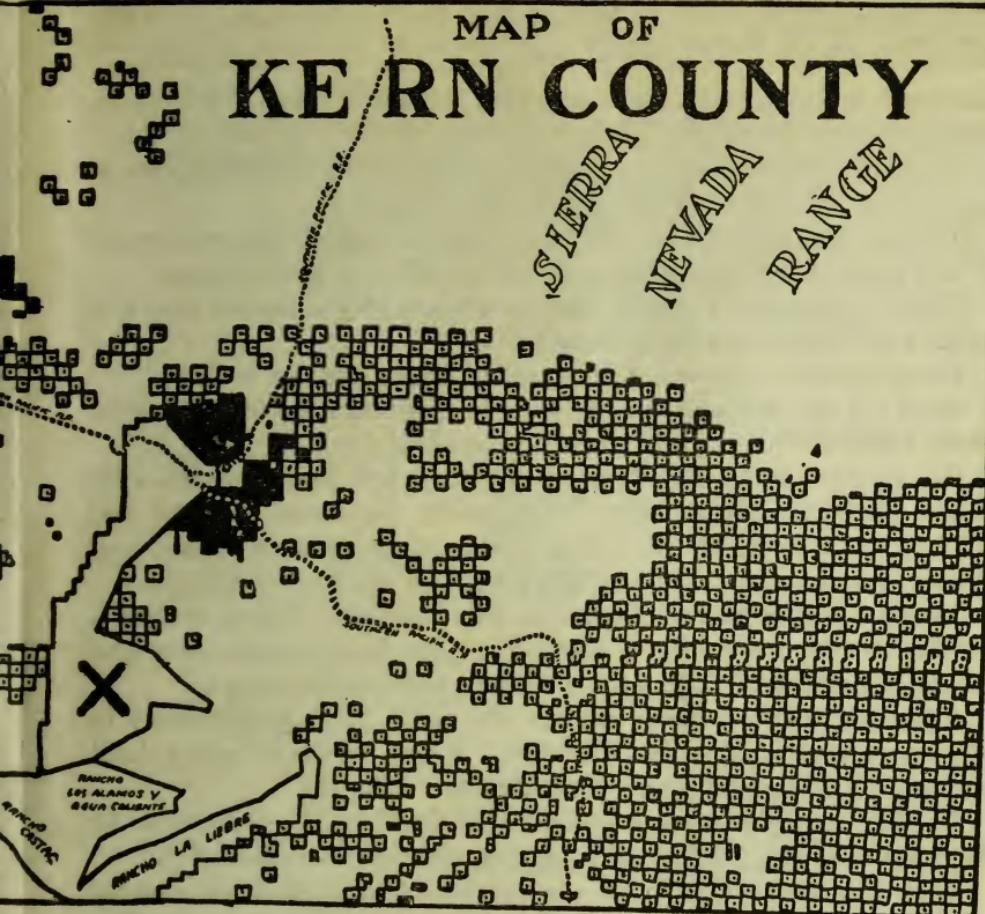
its own curse of slacker acres like Kern county—or worse.

Los Angeles with its population of half a million huddled in tenements, flats, and mortgaged bungalows is surrounded by two million idle acres, nearly half of it good for farming and the rest fit to build homes on—yet no poor man can get a 50-foot lot, or an acre for a garden, without mortgaging himself to a Land Lord or monopolist.

Tax Commissioner Seavey reports that "three hundred and ten landed proprietors own over four million acres suited to intensive cultivation and capable of supporting a dense population."

The State Commission on Land Colonization says: "California

PIRES"---A SAMPLE COUNTY



iego and Inyo counties, is a fair sample of the fifty-eight California Counties. d that will yield from two to five crops a year, an area of 8,050 square miles, a A Single Tax on Land Values will open it to the people.

has an immense area of fertile and unpeopled land. Only eleven million out of twenty-eight million acres of farm land are being cultivated. Comparatively few settlers are coming here, and many who came in recent years have left. Costly advertising and still more costly personal solicitations have not served to attract colonists. We have not found a single settler who, bringing with him only limited capital, has been able to pay for his land in the time agreed upon in his contract."

The Miller & Lux, Spreckles, and Weyerhauser interests own more acres on this coast than there are in the German empire.

Miller & Lux had as many men on horseback (guarding their

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

fourteen million acres from hunters, squatters, and tramps) as there were in the United States cavalry before the present war.

On just such private land empires is based the Prussian Junker caste that has led all Germany to the slaughter.

The foundation of autocracy is land monopoly, the ownership of the natural opportunities and resources by a landed class.

Shall we nourish at home the conditions of Junkerism that our armies in France are destroying?

Shall we tax everything else except these slacker acres?

Shall we eat less and less, pay more and more for food, to keep these 20,000,000 acres closed to production?

We did not enter this war to enrich a few land owners—yet every American victory over Prussianism increases the rent and selling value of these idle acres, makes their owners richer, and makes it cost more to rent or buy a farm or a lot for a cottage.

Every advance of our Yanks on the European fronts makes it harder for anyone to get a footing on the land—raises rent and the selling price of California's twenty million idle acres.

And these slacker acres pay no war tax! "Put your money in idle acres and escape the war tax," is the motto of every land monopolist and speculator—and they are doing it.

To this condition—to the "Curse of California"—what will be the answer of the California voters on election day, Nov. 5th?

Will they vote to continue the system of land monopoly under which the land's increase, in value and produce, must go to that "very small proportion of our population that owns land."

Or will they put a cross (X) after "Yes" on Amendment 19 and thus, by taxing these slacker acres, end the day in California when anyone can hold more land than he makes good use of?

This is the way the Single Tax bill will appear on the ballot:

19	LAND VALUES TAXATION. Initiative measure adding Section 15 to Article XIII of Constitution. On and after January 1, 1919, requires all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, be raised by taxation of value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; declaring war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1½, 1½ and 1a of same Article not affected hereby; asserts intent of amendment to prevent holding land out of use for speculation and to apply to community purposes land values which community creates. Repeals all constitutional provisions and laws conflicting herewith.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	

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Vol. 2

OCTOBER 19, 1918

No. 30



People's War Measure

To put California's 20,000,000 Slacker Acres---idle mines and oil wells---behind the Boys at the Front

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR!

Work and vote for Single Tax Constitutional Amendment 19

THE men in the trenches, who have been freed from the economic serfdom to which some of them have been accustomed, will, it is likely, return to their homes with a new view and a new impatience of all mere political phrases, and will demand real thinking and sincere action.

The days of political and economic reconstruction which are ahead of us no man can now definitely assess, but we know this, that every program must be shot thru and thru with utter disinterestedness; that no party must try to serve itself, but every party must try to serve humanity, and that the task is a very practical one, meaning that every program, every measure in every program, must be tested by this question, and this question only: Is it just; is it for the benefit of the average man, without influence or privilege; does it embody in real fact the highest conception of social justice and of right dealing without respect of person or class or particular interest?—President Wilson, March 20, 1918.

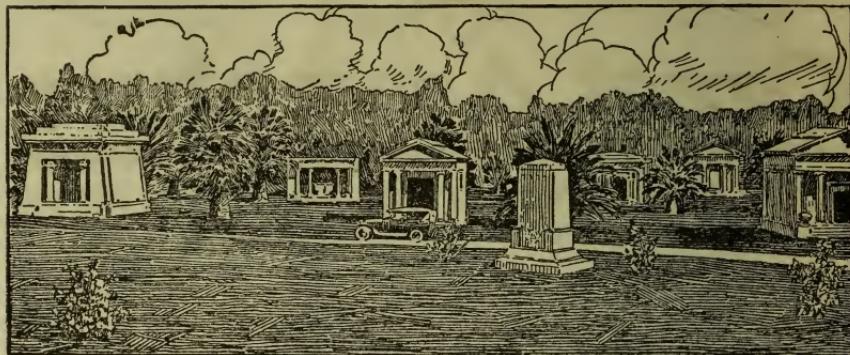
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"DO WE NEED A NE



VIEW IN ROSEDALE CEMETERY, LOS ANGELES—(*Drawn from a photo*)

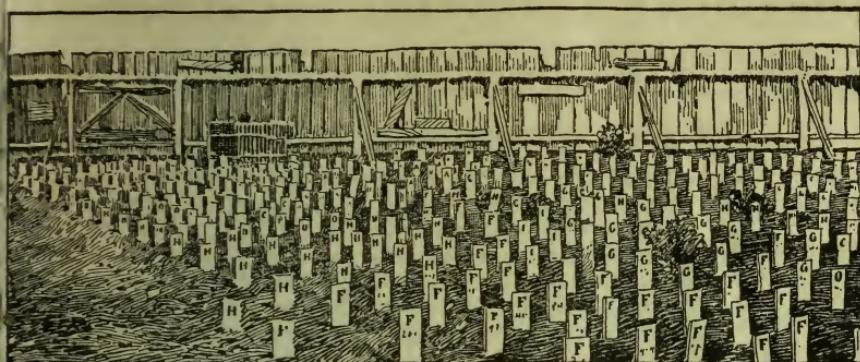
THE price of any one of these tombs might have saved the lives of a hundred babes who lie under the little mounds in the picture on the opposite page. If God's all-seeing eye sees earth's conditions as truly as the camera, I wonder what He thinks when He sees these conditions in all the large cities, that call themselves the cream of civilization. Mother voters, as you look at these pictures, you who know that the death rate among the poor is far greater than among the rich, yet that the poor have the same feeling for their offspring, and the same anguish at their birth and death—I ask you:

Is it fair?

Look again. Will God say to the occupants of such tombs, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" For centuries the rich have paid fabulous sums to save the souls of the poor. Now let those with mortgages on their homes, those who pay rent or have no homes, and others who want homes, help save the souls of rich and poor alike. If God is Justice and Justice is God, perhaps we need a new idea of God. Vote for the Land Values Taxation Amendment 19. It will be the first step toward heaven on earth. If God made earth for all His children, let us see that all have an equal opportunity.

Look at the acres and acres of babies' graves, packed like sardines in a box, and not a blade of grass. See that ugly, unpainted high board fence put there so that these little ones will not contaminate the well-to-do on the other side, and also to show that we have class distinctions even after death. Mother voters, stop; listen: the bankers, real estaters, big department stores and fashionable churches—I mean those churches that rather hear the bellow of the golden calf than follow the golden rule—will tell

V IDEA OF GOD?"



POTTER'S FIELD, BOYLE HEIGHTS, LOS ANGELES—(*Drawn from a photo*)

you that if you take all the taxes off their automobiles, tall buildings and personal property, and place a one single tax on land values, it will be good for them and bad for you. Now think: if that were true, would they be for, or against, Single Tax? Are they so unselfish? Look again at these two pictures.

Listen: under a one single tax, not on land, but on land values, it would not be profitable for the coal barons to close their mines while people freeze, because a tax on land values would tax a closed-mine owner to death. He would have to work, or lose, his mine. The same would apply to oil monopoly. A single tax on land values, would free what's in the earth, as well as the earth itself. The well-to-do know that the tax on the improvement and personal property is simply shifted on to you. Whether it is rides on street or interurban cars, coal, oil, or tall buildings, the renter and the consumer pay the tax. A tax not on land, but on land values, would cheapen the land, knocking out the land profiteer. This would mean lower prices and higher wages, as is always the case where people have easy access to land.

Mother voters, as you go into the booth on election day, remember "Number Nineteen" as if it were on the gateway to heaven. Then with your ballot before you, and your faith in a God above you, remember the story of how Jesus threw the money-changers out of the Temple; and for this they crucified Jesus, and then the money-changers went back into the Temple. This Temple is not built of brick and mortar, but is the earth—God's footstool. Now place a cross and vote Yes on Amendment 19. This will help finish the job Jesus started—throw the money-changers out of the Temple again.

Yours for a better world,

GERRIT J. JOHNSON.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

Single Tax Originated in California

Henry George hated war and like every world-teacher wrote strongly against it. But when war came how did he feel and act? A letter written by him at Sacramento June 5, 1862, to his sister in Philadelphia, says: "Every day the telegraph is in working order it brings us news of the success of the armies of the Republic. I cannot help feeling regret that the contest will be over and the victories won without my having taken the slightest part in it. If I am East after the war is ended, I will feel abashed among its heroes. If I had been home I would have gone if I possibly could, but here there was no chance unless one could pay his passage to New York, for those who were raised here were merely to garrison posts and fight Indians." Except Joaquin Miller, the poet, Henry George was the most truly Californian of the several now world-famous writers who came to the Golden Coast in their youth with the Argonauts. His epoch-making book, "Progress and Poverty," was conceived, written, and first printed in San Francisco. Single Tax, instead of being a "foreign doctrine," as its enemies would like to show, is not only of American origin, but a strictly "California product." The doctrine of the earth for the people is as old as man, of course, and the sages of all ages and lands have taught it, but it was Henry George, the "Prophet of San Francisco," who first showed the world how to attain it. In this state Single Tax was born, and here it will be first applied in its purity—when on November 5th 700,000 California voters cast their ballots for the Land Values Taxation Amendment 19.

Every sign of these terrible days of war and revolutionary change, when economic and social forces are being released upon the world whose effect no political seer dare venture to conjecture, bids us search our hearts through and through and make them ready for the birth of a new day—a day, we hope and believe, of greater opportunity and greater prosperity for the average mass of struggling men and women, and of greater safety and opportunity for children. PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON

If you have not paid for the copy of this paper that comes to you weekly, remember that someone else has—there are no free copies—all are paid for by the dimes and dollars of people who are denying themselves to advance the human cause of economic democracy and self-determination. You can reciprocate by paying for a few (or many) copies to be sent to other California voters.

Five hundred thousand subs. to this weekly now means 700,000 votes in November.

Use this blank. Send for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in for
_____ subscriptions (at 10c each) to The Great Adventure Weekly 203 Tajo Bldg.
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GR Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Commerce

Food Comes from Land
Don't Hog It!

The

The Great Adventure

260,332 Single Tax votes in 1916: 700,000 votes this year

Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
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Vol. 2

OCTOBER 26, 1918

No. 31



Amendment 19---vote Yes!

PEOPLE'S WAR MEASURE to make Twenty Million Slacker Acres pay the War Tax and Produce Food for the Boys at the Front

Land for Soldiers! Homes for Everybody

THIS is the Single Tax measure, abolishing all taxes on labor products, business, and industry and taxing the only thing that now pays no war tax—Land Values. It will change the land system, making *use* the real title. Use your land or get off it.

Land monopoly is the *first* great evil of civilization, the underlying cause of war, poverty, and the trusts. If it is a crime to hoard or corner food, what is it to corner the *source* of all human supplies?

Single Tax is not on land, but on land value—no value, no tax; little value, little tax; much value, much tax.

Single Tax will squeeze speculative value out of land and throw it all open to use. Where land is free or cheap, wages are high and *capital seeks labor*—that is the history of all new countries. Amendment 19 will bring back to California the Golden Days of plenty for all before the chances for self-employment were cornered.

It means land, homes, and jobs for returning soldiers—their choice of occupation at high wages, for capital driven out of speculation, will seek labor and serve labor on labor's terms.

Single Tax is the foundation of economic justice. It is the big human issue of this election. Look for 19 on the ballot, under this official title:

LAND VALUES TAXATION. Initiative measure adding Section 15 to Article XIII of Constitution. On and after January 1, 1919, requires all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, be raised by taxation of value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; declaring war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1½, 1½ and 1a of same Article not affected hereby; asserts intent of amendment to prevent holding land out of use for speculation and to apply to community purposes land values which community creates. Repeals all constitutional provisions and laws conflicting herewith.	YES	X
	NO	

Why the Fourth Bond Issue Lags

Land values will soon be leaping. Three million men will be coming home. What's a four per cent. bond to a hundred per cent. idle land investment? The big capital of California is tied up in real estate speculation, in hoarding idle acres and vacant lots against the need of returning soldiers for farms, homesites, and jobs.

Whose blood has made these slacker acres safe and vastly increased their value, must now come home and rent or buy on installments these lots and acres at their advanced price—or compete for jobs with millions of workers to whom the natural resources are closed by land monopoly!

Was the war for the profit of land speculators? Who else but they have made profit out of it and at the same time escaped the excess-profit and income taxes? All other wealth but that sunk in idle land has been made to bear some part of the war expense. Only the land profiteer has escaped.

Reports from all over the country tell that working people and those of little means have done their full share in subscribing to the Fourth Liberty Loan. Big capital is the slacker—it has its eyes on the Idle Acres, Vacant Lots, Unused Oil Wells and Mines—and the pressing needs of three million soldiers returned to the labor market.

Vote "Yes" on 19 and end the shameful era of speculation in human necessities and monopoly of opportunity in California.

REAL ESTATE ADVICE IN DAILY PRESS.

It would seem to be good business for those having large incomes to switch their investments from revenue-producing securities to vacant lands. These produce no income and therefore bear no federal war tax. State, county, or city taxes paid on vacant lands are allowed as a set-off in making income tax returns to the government. Nothing is more certain than the increasing value of vacant lands with every victory of the American forces on the western front. If the lands are not sold until after the war this large profit will escape war taxes entirely.

WILLIAM MARION REEDY in *Reedy's Mirror*

Be a vacant-land Lord and you can laugh at war taxes. Let others Hooverize and tighten their belts and wear old clothes and die in the trenches of foreign lands, while you grow richer and watch other people pay. Be a vacant-land Lord and you will have the rest of the profiteers beaten a hundred ways. Our tax laws will give you the "unearned increment," and you can be the owner of everything and everybody—the owner of the country that others have suffered and died for.

Amendment 19 doesn't untax wealth. Look who oppose it. Anti Singletaxers are land monopolists and speculators, real estate brokers, and politicians, the "interests." Some parade under the name of "Singletaxers"—but examine their lives and affiliations. Do they stand for the general good, or for their own selfish interests?

Can't Affect the Taxes Already Levied

Amendment 19 has nothing to do with the taxes of the 70th fiscal year (July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919). It cannot become a law until January, 1919, and therefore does not operate until the first levy is made for the 71st fiscal year (July 1, 1919 to June 30, 1920). Taxes are levied for *fiscal years* and these begin and end in the middle of the calendar years—end in June and begin with July. The assessments for each fiscal year are made in the preceeding March, and taxes are paid in two installments, the first half being delinquent in November and the second half delinquent the following April. We are now almost midway in the 70th fiscal year, taxes for which were assessed last March, and the first half of which will be delinquent on the last Monday in November. The second half must be paid before the end of next April, which will amply provide for all public expenses up to June 30, 1919. Taxes for the 71st fiscal year under Amendment 19 will be levied on land values only—without the least confusion to any governmental function.

It is the practice of the legislature to pass an "Ad Valorem Deficiency Act" providing for any possible shortage in the state tax levy. The 1917 legislature did not neglect this, so that all possible expenses of the 70th fiscal year, ending June 30, 1919, are amply provided for.

The operation of Amendment 19 cannot possibly effect taxes already levied and appropriated before its enactment. Its operation can only begin with the March, 1919, assessment for the 71st fiscal year.

BANKS WANT INTEREST, NOT LAND: THEY WONT FORECLOSE ON SHRINKING LAND VALUES

Amendment 19 will not cause any bank to foreclose its mortgage on land. Banks have no use for land; they want its produce, converted into money—and will get *only* their share under Amendment 19. They want interest on loans, and under the great prosperity of Single Tax everybody will be able to pay off their mortgages promptly—by *using* instead of speculating with land.

Banks are not farmers or home builders. They have no use for land, except to speculate with it—which is against the law! Commercial banks have no business to lend money on land. They should loan only on "liquid credits," such as can always be converted into cash within four months. If any California banks have loaned on speculative land value (!!)—Well, Single Tax will help even them, for by *using* land, instead of hoarding and cornering it, all the loans will easily be paid off. Single Tax will put an end to illicit, wildcat banking in California.

In 1916 a well known cattle rancher refused \$2,300,000 cash for his ranch of two hundred thousand acres. It was assessed for taxes as worth only \$430,000. The same year he sold beef cattle for \$350,000—and paid personal property tax on \$75,000. His name is withheld because Single Tax is not a fight against individuals, but against the system that encourages the rich to throw the tax burden on the poor. There are dozens of such instances shown on every assessment book.

Why are the big building owners, the trust companies, banks, corporations, railways, and brokers so anxious to be "taxed" as at present, instead of "escaping" taxation under Single Tax? Why do they say it will throw the tax burden on the farmer and home owner? Because they fear Single Tax and know it will rob them of their first and main power to exploit the public; that the tax on land value can't be escaped while all other taxes are passed on to tenants and consumers.

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The Prophet of San Francisco on Single Tax

From *Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It*, by HENRY GEORGE.

We propose to banish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it. Our plan involves the imposition of no new tax, since we already tax land values. We have only



to abolish all other taxes, leaving only that which now falls on the value of the bare land, increasing that so as to take as nearly as may be the whole of economic rent, or what is sometimes styled the "unearned increment of land values." That the value of the land alone would suffice to provide all needed public revenues there is no doubt.

Single Tax would dispense with a whole army of tax gatherers and other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of what is taken from the people, while by making government simpler and cheaper, it would tend to make it purer. It would get rid of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery, and corruption, which lead men into temptation, and which tax what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies out-of-doors and cannot be removed, and its value is the most readily ascertained of all values, the tax to which we would resort can be collected with the minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

If we tax houses, there will be fewer and poorer houses; if we tax machinery, there will be less machinery; if we tax capital, there will be less capital; if we tax savings, there will be less savings.

But if we tax land values, there will be no less land.

On the contrary, the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available by industry, since it makes it more difficult for owners of valuable land which they themselves do not care to use to hold it idle for a larger future price.

The taxes we would abolish fall most heavily on the poor. The tax we would increase would destroy that monopoly which is the great cause of their poverty.

Who made the earth that any man can claim such ownership of it, or any part of it, or the right to give, sell or bequeath it? Since the earth was not made by us, but is only a temporary dwelling place on which one generation of men follow another; since we find ourselves here, are manifestly here with equal permission of the creator, it is manifest that no one can have any exclusive right of ownership in land, and that the rights of all men to land must be equal and inalienable. There must be an exclusive right of possession of land, for the man who uses it must have secure possession of land in order to reap the products of his labor. But his right of possession must be limited by the equal right of all.

If the corporations now pay all state taxes why are they fighting Single Tax? They never paid a cent taxes, but only collected the state tax from the public plus a good profit for themselves.

Use the following blank. Send to the office for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

**To help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in for
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Vol. 2

NOVEMBER 2, 1918

No. 32

Examiner Suppresses Truth---Controller Misrepresents Amendment 19

The *Los Angeles Examiner* has refused the following letter. It has published columns of abuse and falsehood against Amendment 19, but not a word in its favor. It is thus squarely on record as deceiving its readers by presenting only one side of so momentous an issue, Land Monopoly, raised by Amendment 19. Is the *Examiner* just, fair, liberal—or does it stand with the despilers and monopolists of California?

EDITOR EXAMINER: The attack of Controller Chambers on Land Values Taxation Amendment 19 in the *Sunday Examiner* is entirely unwarranted by the facts and his conclusions are so at variance therewith that he appears not to have given the matter due thought or else to be pleading for the land monopolists and speculators at the cost of the plain, simple truth.

His first misstatement is that Amendment 19 would go into effect on January 1st, 1919.

Manifestly it could not be effective until an assessment is made, in March. This assessment will be for the 71st fiscal year beginning July 1, 1919, and will have nothing to do with the taxes or the revenue or the expenses of the 70th fiscal year, which does not end until June 30, 1919. The State Controller ought to know this. If he does, why has he said that "all public revenue would be cut off" from the first day of January until the Legislature "evolves a new tax system"?

It is not true. Not a cent of revenue would be cut off. Amendment 19 provides that after January 1st "public revenue shall be raised" . . . It says nothing about spending or collecting the public revenue already "raised," assessed, levied for the present fiscal year. It could not possibly be retroactive.

All the public expenses of State, county, city, and district for the 70th fiscal year (July 1, 1918 to June 30, 1919) are already provided for under the tax levy which began with the assessment of March 1918.

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half of which has been already collected and disbursed and we are now beginning to collect the second half, which will not become delinquent until next April.

How could Amendment 19 affect the disbursement of these taxes for the present (70th) fiscal year? Manifestly it could not.

But if it could—just for the argument—still Controller Chambers is plainly wrong in concluding that therefore any part of the government machinery would have to suffer for lack of revenue. The 1917 Legislature, like all its predecessors, passed an "Ad Valorem Deficiency Bill," the purpose of which is to provide against any possible shortage of revenue under the tax levies of the 69th and 70th fiscal years.

Amendment 19 proposes nothing new or strange—except to abolish land monopoly and speculation, which Controller Chambers specifically admits that it will do.

We already have the Land Values tax. Land and improvements have been separately assessed in California for many years.

Under Amendment 19 the Legislature will have nothing to do with taxation matters except to pass an ad valorem land values tax bill for state revenue to replace the insidious and confusing tax farming provisions of the tax on gross earnings of public utilities—every penny of which tax, the Controller must know, is paid by the public.

To tax a monopoly is to tax the public.

To tax potatoes is to tax the buyers of potatoes. To tax gas, water, anything, is to tax the consumers thereof. Even a state controller ought to know that.

And he ought to know, also, that when the Southern Pacific has to pay a fair tax on its own valuation of five million idle acres, when the Chandler estates, the Miller and Lux estate, the Higin estate, and a dozen other holders of 20,000,000 idle acres in California are assessed as much as the farmers and other users of land are assessed, there will be a hundred times enough public revenue available without taxing buildings, business, and productive enterprise; without fining people for improving their property and discouraging industry by taxing it.

"Who would want to hold land?" under Amendment 19, asks the Controller. The answer is plain—All who have any use for it. He admits that the speculators wouldn't want it—and that is the very purpose of Amendment 19—to stop speculation in the source of food and supplies. People who want land to build on or cultivate will use more of it the cheaper it is.

Mr. Chambers' reference to banks is unfortunate—for himself and the banks that may be speculating in idle land—if any are. They have no business to. Banks should loan only on "liquid credits," such as can be converted into cash inside of 120 days.

Amendment 19 will put a stop to wildcat banking, without injury to any mortgagor or mortgagee. Banks will not foreclose on decreasing land values. They don't want land, they want interest, and to untax business and improvements will be to stimulate and increase their value, whereupon the interest will be easier paid than now.

Amendment 19 will bring no confusion to any productive enterprise. It will vastly simplify the taxing machinery of the state and all its political subdivisions.

"Leading Singletaxers" of California do not oppose Amendment 19, as Mr. Chambers says. All of them are working for it. Four politicians in San Francisco who formerly got themselves fat salaries by pretending to advocate Single Tax while in reality making it innocuous to please the interests that paid the salaries, have now joined with the Los Angeles Times and standpatters of the state in misleading the public—that's all the "Single Tax" opposition there is to Amendment 19.

As to the truth of this, or any statement herein, I will gladly submit proof to anyone interested. . . . Sincerely, LUKE NORTH.

Corporations Shift Taxes---Allies of L. A. Times Betray Public on Land Values Amendment 19

From the *San Francisco Bulletin*.

EDITOR BULLETIN: The public service corporations of California are tax collectors, not tax payers. The amount of the state revenue, about \$17,000,000, which they hand over to the state every year, they first collect from the public in higher charges for service, plus a good commission for themselves.

This is so obvious to whoever studies taxation matters a little that its public denial in the name of "Single Tax," by a "Singletaxer," is proof enough of other interests than truth and justice on the part of the writer in *The Bulletin* of last Saturday, whose article was published under the heading, "Single Taxer Explains Aim of New Bill." He stands surreptitiously with the *Los Angeles Times* and the reactionary forces of the state in their efforts to deceive the people about Amendment 19 and thus continue the shameful business of land monopoly which has so enormously retarded the settlement of California and weakened its efficiency as a food and revenue producer in the time of the nation's greatest need.

If you were selling gas, water or transportation—or potatoes, or anything—to the public, and had a monopoly of your business, and the state placed a tax on you, would you add that tax to the price of goods you were selling, or wouldn't you?

You would, of course—and the corporations of California do. This is not only obvious in all reasons and common sense, but is admitted by the Railroad Commission, which frankly says that taxes are allowed in fixing charges for public service.

Following the lead of the *Los Angeles Times*, the writer of the article referred

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to seeks to cloud the only real issue of Amendment 19—land monopoly—and wallow in personalities.

The proponents of Land Values Taxation Amendment 19 are not on trial. The bill is the issue, not who wrote it, or the color of the ink in which it was written. California electors will vote for Amendment 19 if they hate land monopoly and against Amendment 19 if they favor land monopoly—quite regardless of any personal character, or of the circumstance that Prof. A. G. Brodeur happened to reside in Massachusetts during the years—now gone forever—when a little group of self-styled "Singletaxers" were playing politics and enjoying fat salaries by drawing the teeth of Single Tax and making it harmless to the interests whose contributions paid the salaries.

My own life is an open book to whoever cares to read. Those who have read it, or any of my published writings in the last twenty-seven years in California, know that I am opposed to all violence; that I have opposed hate in all its forms and methods, and taught, preached and written that love, understanding, justice, sympathy, idealism are the only real promoters of lasting human progress. And so my "enemies" and even some of my friends were shocked and disappointed that I stood squarely and frankly with President Wilson on his every act and interpretation of this holy war for world democracy.

LUKE NORTH.

Who Owns California?

The Southern Pacific holds Five Million acres in California.---*U. S. Com. Immigration*

Miller & Lux own most of San Joaquin River; they hold 14,539,200 acres.---*Times*

In Sacramento Valley one hundred men own 17,000,000 acres.---*U. S. Report*

Miller & Lux, Spreckles, and Weyerhauser interests own more acres than there are in the German empire. On such private land empires rests the Prussian Junker caste. Autocracy grows out of Land Monopoly.

Less than 3% of California people own 90% of the Land and Resources

19

**Land Values
Taxation**

Yes

X

No

Will Give Everybody a Chance to Own Land

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Commerce

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The Great Adventure

60 Years of Service

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Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESSS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
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Vol. 2

NOVEMBER 16, 1918.

No. 33

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 13.—According to an Associated Press dispatch in the morning papers giving returns from thirty counties and 3700 out of the 6191 precincts, Single Tax has increased its proportion of the total vote from 31 per cent in 1916 to 37 per cent in 1918.

Questions: Why are the returns so slow? Is there any truth in the numerous reports coming to THE GREAT ADVENTURE that in various precincts the count on Amendment 19 was not according to the vote cast?

N. B.—If the influenza ban is removed in time there will be a Single Tax gathering Tuesday evening, November 19, at B and M Cafeteria, 524 South Hill Street, Los Angeles, beginning at 6:30 o'clock. All voters who supported Amendment 19 are cordially invited.

THE PEOPLE LOSE --- NOW FOR 1920!

Single Tax First Need for Reconstruction and Economic Democracy

Show them under so deep that we will hear no more of Single Tax in California for years to come.—ANTI SINGLE TAX LEAGUE, LOS ANGELES.

It ought to be buried this time under a majority of half a million votes.—ANTI SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION, SAN FRANCISCO.

THAT was the aim of the three per cent who own ninety per cent of the land, resources, and wealth of California. To achieve it they stopped at nothing deemed effective. They plastered the bill boards with falsehoods and used the daily press as a "capper." Secretly and openly they intimidated. Bank depositors were quietly told that their savings were in jeopardy. Letters were sent to shareholders advising them that Single Tax would make worthless all securities.

While lacking nothing in open warfare, the most telling part of the

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Anti's campaign was surreptitious. On election day they drummed up their full strength, with autos for those reluctant to brave the epidemic.

The State Controller brazenly uttered the most obvious falsehoods in the public press, while the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chairman of the State Tax Commission used their official positions to confuse and misinform the people, answers to which the daily press, with the single honorable exception of the San Francisco *Bulletin*, most unfairly refused to publish.

The influenza scare was at its height. A pall of fear was on the state. In San Francisco in one day there were 600 arrests for failure to wear "flu" masks. Reaction was sweeping the nation. It reached California, and despite the aggressive campaign carried on by hundreds of good workers, up to the limit of their "shoestring" campaign fund, land monopoly again had its way at the polls. Again the people lost, and the 3 per cent still holds its grip on the lives of the people.

But Single Tax was not "snowed under" nor "buried under a majority of half a million." It was in reality a "no vote"—decisive of nothing but the indubitable fact that public attention and interest were wholly absorbed in war work. Only a little more than half the vote of the state on any candidate or issue was recorded. The total vote for governor was barely 600,000 (judging from almost complete returns).

In 1916 the four largest counties—San Francisco, Alameda, Los Angeles, San Diego—recorded nearly 500,000 votes for and against Single Tax, while the total state vote cast for presidential electors was over a million. This year the four big counties gave only a total of 188,580 votes on Single Tax, apportioned (and contrasted) as follows:

	1916		1918	
	YES.	NO.	YES.	NO.
Alameda	30,262	55,472	10,135	32,746
Los Angeles	63,606	174,788	33,398	92,782
San Diego	11,615	18,374	5,336	12,735
San Francisco	51,439	73,801	18,207	50,317

There are 54 counties still to hear from, but it is not at all likely that they will disturb this average. As soon as possible the total vote by counties will be published, in comparison with the 1916 vote.

The total registration of the state for this election was 1,204,693 men and women. Not more than half of this number voted—and they voted conservatively, reactionary, republican.

There were two prohibition measures, one closing the saloons and permitting the sale of light wines and beer, the other "bone dry." Among the political prophets the only difference of opinion was on the latter. It was conceded that at least the anti saloon amendment would carry. Both lost. Except for a congressman or two, the election was chiefly a victory for the Los Angeles *Times* and the predatory interests. The prohibitionists are consoling themselves with having won the legislature

for the national dry constitutional amendment—which is probably correct but not yet certain. Legislatures are unknown quantities.

At this writing, Nov. 11th, our best information is that, all things considered, Single Tax held its own in California this year. But even if later returns seem to shake that belief, still we are not “snowed under” nor “buried beneath half a million votes”—far from it.

Single Tax is the need of the hour. The nation is wildly celebrating the end of the world war. Reconstruction is the thought uppermost in every heart. Single Tax must prove itself now, or see land monopoly fastened upon the nation stronger than ever. It is peculiarly the time for the enactment and exemplification of Single Tax. The tragedy is that two years must elapse before it can be carried.

Reaction's program is that the returning soldiers shall reclaim the idle acres for the enrichment of their idle title holders. Land and rent are to go up and up—wages down and down. The California plan to import 25,000 Chinese laborers has been withdrawn. There's no need of it. There will be cheap labor again. Two million men will be demobilized, and with five million war industries workers will soon be bidding against each other for jobs.

The need of the hour is a change in the land system from private to common ownership. That means Single Tax as a base for a fraternal order of society builded on the doctrine of equal freedom—or it means paternalism with Wall street in the saddle.

Single Tax is the American way, the immediate need of this Republic.

Its publications in California, *EVERYMAN* and *THE GREAT ADVENTURE*, will “carry on” the good fight. Again the people will have opportunity to vote on the Single (One) Tax amendment in 1920—and doubtless again and again and again, if need be. But sufficient for the day is the campaign for the state election of 1920, which is now on!

From the Office Files---A Few of Many

THOMAS STRAIN, *Fullerton, Cal.*, Nov. 10.—As I did not see how we could win under all the unusual, cramping circumstances, so now I do not see how we could think of doing otherwise than to forge ahead.

A. V. HAHN, *Los Angeles*.—The Single Tax campaign should go on without cessation. Released from its absorbing war interest, the public thought will now turn to economic measures for the reconstruction.

J. H. MCGILL, *Valparaiso, Ind.*, Oct. 26.—I hope you will win, but if you do not I hope you will start right in again and that I may be in shape to do more for the next campaign than I have been able to do in this.

Dr. J. E. POTTINGER, *Monrovia, Cal.*, Nov. 11.—It seems to me that the vote on our land value tax amendment was very satisfactory. When we consider the conservatism of people in war times, it looks as tho we ought to be able to put over something next election.

Hon. ROBERT S. PHIFER, Jr., *Jackson, Miss.*, Oct. 28.—Whatever happens, of

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
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course you will go on. If you win the election, events will push you on; if you lose, then you must forge ahead regardless. Victory will soon come in California. It is the strategic point—the enemy's weakest, our strongest.

W. L. Ross, *chairman The Great Adventure Contributors' League, Philadelphia*, now visiting in Southern California, writing from San Diego, Nov. 9.—I congratulate you on what seems to me a very promising and inspiring result for Single Tax under all the circumstances. To have held your own was remarkable. There is no question but that we should go on without a moment's delay.

ALFRED D. CRIDGE, *Portland, Ore.*, Nov. 7.—Nevertheless, soldiers of the common good, I want to congratulate you for the splendid campaign you have made. Of course there is a deficit? [Indeed there is—\$1,800.—Ed.]. I will send my mite toward making it up. Then fight on! An active campaign from January 1st will give opportunity for a field and heart-to-heart campaign. God hates a quitter!

ANNA GEORGE DE MILLE, in a letter to *Holly Leaves*, published at *Hollywood, Cal.*, Nov. 2.—It is well nigh impossible for a Singletaxer in California to refrain from bitter resentment at the mode of attack our enemies have followed in this present political fight. To accuse us of pro-Germanism is so absurd as to be amusing, . . . If the majority of voters show that they have believed these untruths or half truths made by those who will be hurt by "Special privilege to none," we will "carry on" and fight the good fight again, for truth will prevail and those who condemn it today will be ready to die for it tomorrow.

To Break the Power of the Daily Press

To overcome the influence of the daily press should be the first consideration of any campaign for a fundamental economic measure. Among all the daily papers in the state, only one, the *San Francisco Bulletin*, gave Amendment 19 fair and equal treatment in its news columns. The *Los Angeles Record* started out to do so, but a change in management after Single Tax reached the ballot, turned the *Record* from championship of the people's cause to land monopoly.

Against the subtle effectiveness of the daily press, its news columns presenting only one side of a public issue, there is but one remedy, a journal advocating the measure sought to be enacted; and such journal, to be effective, must have a very large circulation.

When the "interests" uttered their falsehoods and misrepresentations against Amendment 19, the daily press carried them uncontradicted to a million or two million readers. The truth about Single Tax found its chief exponent in **THE GREAT ADVENTURE** weekly, which for lack of means, did not reach half a million circulation until almost the end of the campaign, and then only for an issue or two.

As a base for whatever manner of campaign for Single Tax that may be waged in the next two years, a regular weekly circulation of not less than 200,000 paid subscribers should be the first concern. What will you do to help attain it quickly?

The price per year has been increased from 10 cents to 25 cents, but subscriptions inside California will still be taken at the pre-election rate. Subscription blanks supplied upon request. Help today to do the first thing to break the power of the daily press to misinform the public about Single Tax. Send in one, or a bunch, of new subscribers. We can provide the names of voters, if you supply the dimes to place their names on our mailing list. What does the cause mean to you?

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The

The Great Adventure

DEC 11 1918

Published weekly by GOLDEN PRESSS, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.
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Vol. 2

DECEMBER 7, 1918

No. 34

Adventurers will dine together, and afterward talk it over, Thursday, Dec. 12th, 6:30 P. M., at Boos Bros. Cafeteria, 440 South Hill street. Visiting Singletaxers welcome, and all voters who supported Amendment 19 are cordially invited. The new campaign is on!

Land monopoly makes fewer jobs, high rent, dear food
Free land takes up surplus labor, raises wages, lowers rent

Single Tax will open the land and end poverty
If you know this get in line and help; if you don't read up

SINGLE TAX THE FIRST STEP TO FREEDOM!

The Singletaxers claim a sort of moral victory by registering a "large vote," but this time they have fallen so low that they will probably never attempt another campaign in California.—*Los Angeles Times*.

WHILE human energy is coined into land value and the value appropriated by a small class of owners and exploiters; while the idle land and the natural opportunities and resources are held by less than three per cent of the people, and poverty seizes or threatens all the rest, those whose lives have been really touched by Henry George's vision of free men on a free earth will not be silenced or deterred from action by an adverse election—one more of many. The Single Tax battle will be over—when it is won!

Since election nearly a hundred letters have been received, not one of which has suggested retreat.

The *Times* is badly informed—and mendacious, anyway. It "prints all the news all the time"—when favorable to privilege.

Details of the new campaign are to be arranged—the only thing now fixed is that there is to be No Retreat, but rather an increased Offensive. The first detail is the deficit—about \$1800 worth of bills unpaid—less than half of the 1916 indebtedness. It's not formidable, but the quicker it's out of the way the faster the moving columns can go. It is owed to tradesmen who need the money. Just about five cents from every

reader of these lines would wipe it out over night—but you who can had better send ten dollars or a hundred, for a good many thousands will *send* nothing and it costs too much to go and take it away from them.

The vote is nearly all in. We're not proud of it, but not hiding from it. Here it is (contrasted with that of 1916)—a "no vote," a war vote:

	1916		1918	
	Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.
Alameda	30,262	55,472	10,135	32,746
Alpine	11	45	9	19
Amador	592	1,644	156	976
Butte	2,431	4,855	1,022	3,010
Calaveras	539	1,704	157	834
Colusa	504	1,883	212	1,125
Contra Costa	4,507	6,440	2,028	4,075
Del Norte	296	463		
El Dorado	549	1,751	226	1,183
Fresno	7,768	14,638	4,464	10,214
Glenn	611	1,913	316	1,487
Humboldt	3,585	5,464	1,888	3,874
Imperial	1,262	4,005	675	2,106
Inyo	499	1,289	156	622
Kern	5,394	6,669	2,216	3,604
Kings	1,174	3,268	552	2,898
Lake	523	1,154	283	839
Lassen	426	1,559	211	1,168
Los Angeles	63,606	174,788	33,398	92,782
Madera	991	1,534	448	1,075
Marin	2,708	4,294	953	3,159
Mariposa	348	677	122	410
Mendocino	1,618	4,179		
Merced	1,401	2,688	696	2,021
Modoc	328	1,217		
Mono	104	113	25	70
Monterey	1,757	4,765	779	3,136
Napa	1,306	4,520	564	2,899
Nevada	906	2,351	360	1,702
Orange	2,410	14,130	1,485	8,679
Placer	1,279	3,474	498	2,165
Plumas	468	798	134	412
Riverside	2,548	9,070		
Sacramento	6,411	13,947		
San Benito	513	2,141	239	1,250
San Bernardino	3,667	16,146		
San Diego	11,615	18,374	5,336	12,735
San Francisco	51,439	73,801	18,207	50,317
San Joaquin	5,718	11,325	2,565	8,833
San Louis Obispo	2,265	3,468	1,067	2,877
San Mateo	3,815	4,429	1,614	3,438
Santa Barbara	2,158	6,534	1,012	3,776
Santa Clara	5,694	23,023		
Santa Cruz	2,388	5,267		
Shasta	1,467	2,586	450	1,657
Sierra	208	475	52	282
Siskiyou	1,451	3,118		
Solano	2,612	5,266	1,204	3,408
Sonoma	4,417	11,468	1,505	7,321
Stanislaus	2,790	5,916	1,382	4,778
Sutter	397	1,949		
Tehama	1,223	2,425	460	1,657
Trinity	277	623	90	467
Tulare	3,692	9,272	1,698	6,813
Tuolumne	611	1,637		
Ventura	1,182	4,884	555	2,834
Yolo	928	3,562	430	2,141
Yuba	783	2,033	231	1,141
Totals	260,332	576,533	102,265	304,515

As a Matter of Public Record

MR. LUKE NORTH, Los Angeles, Cal.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 2, 1918.

My Dear Sir: I enclose an article, in the form of a letter, which I have written in reply to an article and three interviews, published in the August number of *The Western Empire*, a scurrilous and thoughtless publication, of which I had never previously heard.

Neither the article nor the interviews deserve much notice, but in view of the fact that the three gentlemen interviewed are lauded as leading Singletaxers, with an evident view to influencing ill-informed sympathizers with the Single Tax movement, and because some minds of a somewhat higher type may be adversely influenced by the unfounded legal objections therein urged, I have prepared the enclosed article, in reply, which I submit entirely to your judgment and discretion. Very truly yours, JAMES G. MAGUIRE.

Editor THE GREAT ADVENTURE: My attention has been called to three interviews, with as many alleged singletaxers, E. P. E. Troy, Clarence E. Todd and Isidor Jacobs, in violent condemnation of the pending Single Tax Amendment to the Constitution of California. They claim to be Singletaxers, but their interviews show that they are not, and, if they always entertained the views which they now express, none of them has ever been a Singletaxer.



Henry George, whom even they might admit was a Singletaxer, commenced his pamphlet: "The Single Tax—What It Is and Why We Urge It," with the sentence: "We propose to banish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it," and he proposed to levy a much heavier tax than the pending amendment, for he proposed to raise the state's share of the Federal revenue by the single tax, which Amendment 19 does not. It calls for only a very moderate application of the Single Tax principle—practically increasing taxes on land values only to the extent of making up the losses of revenue caused by the exemption of personal property and improvements on land from taxation, and to make good the loss of revenue caused by the abolition of the absurd and unjust taxes on passengers and shippers of freight on railroads (the right of way, depots and other grounds if any, held by railroad companies, will be taxed as land values, under the Amendment), and no other tax, direct or indirect, will be levied for the support of government.

The Single Tax theory is based upon the philosophy of Henry George, as set forth in "Progress and Poverty," and supported in all his later writings. Mr. Jacobs denounces the proposed Single Tax Amendment 19, as "a preposterous proposition." He has a right to entertain and to express that view, but he has no right to claim that he is a Singletaxer, if he hold to that opinion.

They all complain very bitterly about the alleged exemption of railroad monopolies from taxation, in which they are doubtless sincere, but stupidly mistaken since I have shown beyond question that, under existing law, and in the nature of things, under their relations to the state, they pay no taxes, and cannot be taxed. All this talk about giving up \$17,000,000 of revenue, now collected from the railroads, is, at best, mere self-deception, if it is actually believed, because the Railroad Commission is not only authorized, but required, to allow the railroad companies to add their taxes to railroad fares and freights, with a reasonable per-

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centage in addition, to cover expenses, etc., leaving the company an irreducible minimum of six (6) per cent (I think), as profit, over and above expenses, wage of superintendence, taxes, etc., etc.

But their principal argument against the amendment is that it was drawn by Luke North, and that he is a bad man. This reminds me of Fadlaeene's inquiry as to the race and religion of the author of a certain book which he was asked to criticise, saying that he could not tell whether the book was good or bad unless he knew the race and religion of the author. As for me, I do not either know or care who is the author of the proposed amendment. I know that it conforms to my views and that I will support it, and hope all Singletaxers will do the same.

I notice that the sapient editor who published the interviews, says that if Amendment No. 19 should be adopted, the state, counties and municipalities of California, would be unable to collect any of its revenues for the last half of the present fiscal year, because, although the taxes necessary to raise such revenue have been actually levied, and are a lien upon the properties, they cannot legally be collected, because the amendment provides for the raising of all public revenue by a tax on the value of land! But it does not provide that taxes already levied shall not be collected after that date; nor does it provide that the taxes already levied on land values for the present fiscal year, shall not be collected; and it entirely ignores the provision of existing law, under which no court is permitted to grant an injunction against the collection of a tax, and requires the person who wishes to contest the validity of a tax, to first pay it and then bring an action to determine its validity and to recover the amount paid. He also overlooked the fact that the public service corporations, which will owe most of the state taxes, for the current year, which he says will not be collected will hold it as trustees of the state having collected it, as such, from their customers.

He is also worried because no street railroad fares or water rates, can be collected on municipal railroads, nor charges for water service, by cities owning water supplies. His alarm on this subject is also needless. Municipalities do not collect either street railroad fares or water rates as taxes, or under their taxing power, but, as charges for service, in their business capacity, which is generally recognized by the courts. I do not think, however, that any part of the earnings of municipal railroads or water works could be used for payment of ordinary expenses of government, state, county or municipal, if Amendment 19 is adopted. But it was never so intended. They should be used for the acquisition and extension of publicly owned service enterprises of the same kind; thus further relieving the people from the extortions of these monopolies.

JAMES G. MAGUIRE.

There's a hundred weeks ahead of this campaign, in which time we must gain for this little organ of The Great Adventure no less than 3,000 new subscribers every week. To keep right and safe with the post office the ten cent yearly rate must be discontinued for the present. We must be able to "prove up" on the bulk of our list at the full rate of 25 cents a year. There's a profit in that figure, too—little sinking fund for a speaker's campaign, not to mention the expense of the initiative petition. But 150,000 new subscribers in 1919, at 25 cents each, will finance the signature campaign. Get busy! We can supply names, if necessary.

TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in
subscriptions (at 25c each) to The Great Adventure Weekly 203 Tajo,
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Vol. 2. DECEMBER 21, 1918 No. 35

Private Property in Land Inconsistent With the Best Use of Land

By HENRY GEORGE

Chapter I, Book VIII, of "Progress and Poverty"

There is a delusion resulting from the tendency to confound the accidental with the essential—a delusion which the law writers have done their best to extend, and political economists generally have acquiesced in, rather than endeavored to expose—that private property in land is necessary to the proper use of land, and that again to make land common property would be to destroy civilization and revert to barbarism.



This delusion may be likened to the idea which, according to Charles Lamb, so long prevailed among the Chinese after the savor of roast pork had been accidentally discovered by the burning down of Ho-ti's hut—that to cook a pig it was necessary to set fire to a house. But, though in Lamb's charming dissertation it was required that a sage should arise to teach people that they might roast pigs without burning down houses, it does not take a sage to see that what is required for the improvement of land is not absolute ownership of the land, but security for the improvements. This will be obvious to whoever will look around him. While there is no more necessity for making a man the absolute and exclusive owner of land, in order to induce him to improve it, than there is of burning down a house in order to cook a pig; while the making of land private property is as rude, wasteful, and uncertain a device for securing improvement, as the burning down of a house is a rude, wasteful, and uncertain device for roasting a pig, we have not the excuse for persisting in the one that Lamb's Chinamen had for persisting in the other. Until the sage arose who invented the rude

gridiron, which according to Lamb, preceded the spit and oven, no one had known or heard of pig being roasted, except by a house being burned. But, among us, nothing is more common than for land to be improved by those who do not own it. The greater part of the land of Great Britain is cultivated by tenants, the greater part of the buildings of London are built upon leased ground, and even in the United States the same system prevails everywhere to a greater or less extent. Thus it is a common matter for use to be separated from ownership.

Would not all this land be cultivated and improved just as well if the rent went to the state or municipality, as now, when it goes to private individuals? If no private ownership in land were acknowledged, but all land were held in this way, the occupier or user paying rent to the State, would not land be used and improved as well and as securely as now? There can be but one answer: Of course it would. Then would the resumption of land as common property in nowise interfere with the proper use and improvement of land.

What is necessary for the use of land is not its private ownership, but the security of improvements. It is not necessary to say to a man, "this land is yours," in order to induce him to cultivate or improve it. It is only necessary to say to him, "whatever your labor or capital produces on this land shall be yours." Give a man security that he may reap, and he will sow; assure him of the possession of the house he wants to build, and he will build it. These are the natural rewards of labor. It is for the sake of the reaping that men sow; it is for the sake of possessing houses that men build. The ownership of land has nothing to do with it.

It was for the sake of obtaining this security, that in the beginning of the feudal period so many of the smaller land holders surrendered the ownership of their lands to a military chieftain, receiving back the use of them in fief or trust, and kneeling bareheaded before the lord, with their hands between his hands, swore to serve him with life, and limb, and worldly honor. Similar instances of the giving up of ownership in land for the sake of security in its enjoyment are to be seen in Turkey, where a peculiar exemption from taxation and extortion attaches to *vakouf*, or church lands, and where it is a common thing for a land owner to sell his land to a mosque for a nominal price, with the understanding that he may remain as tenant upon it at a fixed rent.

It is not the magic of property, as Arthur Young said, that has turned Flemish sands into fruitful fields. It is the magic of security to labor. This can be secured in other ways than making land private property, just as the heat necessary to roast a pig can be secured in other ways than by burning down houses. The mere pledge of an Irish landlord that for twenty years he would not claim in rent any share in

S u p p l e m e n t

THE GREAT ADVENTURE

Vol. 2

DECEMBER 21, 1918

No. 35

FACE THE WONDERFUL NEW YEAR---DEBTLESS?



NE of those who worked hard for the Single Tax Amendment, saddened at this second and more decided repulse, writes doubtfully, "Do the people really want Single Tax, I wonder?"

We might with equal relevance ask: "Does the tree want rain and sunshine, the child a playground, the soul a chance to grow?"

We must not lay our shortcomings—our failures, if such they really are—against the heart of the crowd. We failed to reach it; that is all.

Everyone wants a larger, fuller life; less of bitterness and pain in the struggle for existence; more of comfort and leisure—and tonight there are unfed children in the streets, men and women without jobs; tomorrow many mortgages will be foreclosed. Do the people want Single Tax? If it means the end of land monopoly they do—and that's the only kind we are interested in.

Yes, the people want—the fruits of Single Tax.

Why don't they vote for it, then?

Because they don't understand it—and that's our fault; we have not made ourselves heard, not spoken loud enough; we have not made our message articulate; the people could not hear it above the din of the war drums and the screaming headlines of land monopoly's daily press.

At heart the crowd is as good (and as bad) as you and I are. It lacks understanding. The problem is to make it understand; to reach it with our speakers and printed matter; to tell it how a single tax on land values will bring high wages, lower prices, cheaper rent, a more abundant life for all.

Strong in the faith that this can be done, and more easily now that the war drums are silenced and public thought turns naturally to problems of social reconstruction, the new campaign is already active. Not a day has been lost, or an effort withheld. There's a wonderful new, promising year ahead, a year of intensive single tax education in this state. Then the struggle, early in 1920, to have the initiative petition signed and filed; and then the pre-election campaigning.

But in the quiet year just ahead every voting precinct in the state must be canvassed for workers and subscribers to THE GREAT ADVENTURE Weekly. That's the big main plan—details of which are shaping.

The first bridge to cross is the DEFICIT. We are up to it. The new

year's work should start from the other side of that bridge, and easily may if You will kindly and promptly do your share—you who care, you whose battle for Economic Freedom, for Self Determination at home as well as abroad, this is.

To drag that deficit over into the new year will be a hinderance. Help us to travel light and quickly, to spread out into all the 6,000 and more precincts.

In your Christmas reckoning put by a little for Our Deficit (yours and mine, all of us who know and care)—and send it early, right away—and stop the interest. Debts are not stationary things; they increase or decrease. This one should be abolished at once.

Yours in the faith,

LUKE NORTH.

Why Invest in a Concern That Fears Economic Freedom?

MR. LUKE NORTH, *Los Angeles, Cal.*

NORWALK, CAL., Dec. 14, 1918.

Dear Sir: Last summer I took out an insurance policy with the Pacific Mutual Insurance Co., but in October I allowed it to lapse, and later decided not to renew it, for reasons given in the copy of my letter to the company, inclosed herewith.

About a month ago I received a letter from their Los Angeles office, urging me to renew my policy by paying up; or to state frankly my reason for refusing to do so.

To which I replied in substance, and as nearly as I can recall, verbatim, as follows:

PACIFIC MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, *Los Angeles, Cal.*

Dear Sirs: Your letter of recent date is at hand, asking me to renew my policy, or to state frankly my reasons for refusing to do so.

To which I will reply, that I refuse to renew the policy, because I believe your concern to be financially unsound.

This opinion is based on a circular letter of yours, that I saw recently, in which you state that if the so-called "Land value tax amendment" was adopted at the election, your securities would be destroyed, and the policies become worthless.

Since "land values," are those values that cannot be destroyed except by depopulation, it appears that your assets must be invested in speculative values; and, as it is unthinkable that men of your integrity and high business standing, would deliberately misrepresent the facts about your company; and as in that case any financial flurry, with or without the land value tax, might at any time destroy your securities and render my policy worthless, I prefer to withhold my dues.

Very respectfully,

W. F. BURGENER.

To break the power of land monopoly's daily press is the first and most vital thing to do toward the abolition of land monopoly in California. Economic justice begins with the end of land monopoly—not before. There are two publications in California devoted exclusively to that "end"—*Everyman* (monthly, \$1 a year), *THE GREAT ADVENTURE* (weekly, 25 cents a year). Both are published by the Golden Press, 203 Tajo Building, First and Broadway, Los Angeles. If you are interested do what you can to increase their circulation in this state, for this is doubtless the pivotal state of the union—the state where *Progress and Poverty* was written, the early-manhood home of its author, Henry George, the battle-ground of many campaigns for a Free Earth. Probably we can win here before anywhere else—if we overcome the influence of the daily press, by firmly establishing our own press. For this little weekly with so Big a purpose, we should have 300,000 circulation by the end of the next year. We can supply the names, if necessary.

TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in for
subscriptions (at 25c each) to The Great Adventure Weekly 203 Tajo Bldg
Los Angeles

Name _____

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Date

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their cultivation induced Irish peasants to turn a barren mountain into gardens; on the mere security of a fixed ground rent for a term of years the most costly buildings of such cities as London and New York are erected on leased ground. If we give improvers such security, we may safely abolish private property in land.

The complete recognition of common rights to land need in no way interfere with the complete recognition of individual right to improvements or produce. Two men may own a ship without sawing her in half. The ownership of a railway may be divided into a hundred thousand shares, and yet trains be run with as much system and precision as if there were but a single owner. In London, joint stock companies have been formed to hold and manage real estate. Everything could go on as now, and yet the common right to land be fully recognized by appropriating rent to the common benefit. There is a lot in the center of San Francisco to which the common rights of the people of that city are yet legally recognized. This lot is not cut up into infinitesimal pieces nor yet is it an unused waste. It is covered with fine buildings, the property of private individuals, that stand there in perfect security. The only difference between this lot and those around it, is that the rent of the one goes into the common school fund, the rent of the others into private pockets. What is to prevent the land of a whole country being held by the people of the country in this way?

It would be difficult to select any portion of the territory of the United States in which the conditions commonly taken to necessitate the reduction of land to private ownership exist in higher degree than on the little islet of St. Peter and St. Paul in the Aleutian Archipelago, acquired by the Alaska purchase from Russia. These islands are the breeding places of the fur seal, an animal so timid and wary that the slightest fright causes it to abandon its accustomed resort, never to return. To prevent the utter destruction of this fishery, without which the islands are of no use to man, it is not only necessary to avoid killing the females and young cubs, but even such noises as the discharge of a pistol or the barking of a dog. The men who do the killing must be in no hurry, but quietly walk around among the seals who line the rocky beaches, until the timid animals, so clumsy on land but so graceful in water, show no more sign of fear than lazily to waddle out of the way. Then those who can be killed without diminution of future increase are carefully separated and gently driven inland, out of sight and hearing of the herds, where they are dispatched with clubs. To throw such a fishery as this open to whoever chose to go and kill—which would make it to the interest of each party to kill as many as they could at the time without reference to the future—would be utterly to destroy it in a few seasons, as similar fisheries in other oceans have been destroyed. But it

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is not necessary, therefore, to make these islands private property. Though for reasons greatly less cogent, the great public domain of the American people has been made over to private ownership as fast as anybody could be got to take it, these islands have been leased at a rent of \$317.500 per year, probably not very much less than they could have been sold for at the time of the Alaska purchase. They have already yielded two millions and a half to the national treasury, and they are still, in unimpaired value (for under the careful management of the Alaska Fur Company the seals increase rather than diminish), the common property of the people of the United States.

So far from the recognition of private property in land being necessary to the proper use of land, the contrary is the case. Treating land as private property stands in the way of its proper use. Were land treated as public property it would be used and improved as soon as there was need for its use or improvement, but being treated as private property, the individual owner is permitted to prevent others from using or improving what he cannot or will not use or improve himself. When the title is in dispute, the most valuable land lies unimproved for years; in many parts of England improvement is stopped because, the estates being entailed, no security to improvers can be given; and large tracts of ground which, were they treated as public property, would be covered with buildings and crops, are kept idle to gratify the caprice of the owner. In the thickly settled parts of the United States there is enough land to maintain three or four times our present population, lying unused, because its owners are holding it for higher prices, and immigrants are forced past this unused land to seek homes where their labor will be far less productive. In every city valuable lots may be seen lying vacant for the same reason. If the best use of land be the test, then private property in land is condemned, as it is condemned by every other consideration. It is as wasteful and uncertain a mode of securing the proper use of land as the burning down of houses is of roasting pigs.

When you have read this pass it along to someone who hasn't. It is one of a series of Henry George reprints, which are kept in stock and supplied for distribution to the workers for the Single Tax constitutional amendment in California. If you are interested, send for as many as you can use—enclosing whatever you can afford. Work is a good substitute for cash. You are welcome to all you can distribute on your own terms. No. 7 of THE GREAT ADVENTURE contains *Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It*, by Henry George. A million copies of that and of this number should be circulating in California. Will You help?

36.08

Commerce

GR

Food Will Win the War
Don't Waste It!

Food Comes from Land.
Don't Hog It!

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 2.

MARCH 15, 1919

No. 36

TO KEEP THE IDEAL

By Luke North.

Have you a love that you would keep?
Pour it out into a larger love.
Have you a friendship you would hold?
Share it with the world.
Have you an ideal you would not lose?
Lay it on the Altar to Man.

Nothing is an end in itself.
Everything is only a means to something else.
Satiety is the only sin.
Only what is given can be kept.
What is hoarded turns to Ashes.

Nothing is stationary.
Treasure grows or lessens.
This is true of love, a friendship, or an ideal.
To keep it, share it.
Love is not an end in itself,
But a means of human growth.

Everything is for use,
Nothing is "for keeps."
Things, qualities, thoughts, feelings—
The world and its contents
Tangible and imponderable—
Are for the growth of Man.

You have heard this before
And gushed over it, no doubt.
Now stop the gush and get it into your system:
Live it! Save your love,
Hold your friendship,
Keep your ideal
By use!



LUKE NORTH

MEMORIAL TO LUKE NORTH

At early morning of February 8th, Luke North passed away. The funeral ceremonies at the Little Church of the Flowers, Forest Lawn Cemetery, consisted entirely in selections from his own poems.

The memorial service was held on February 16th, in the Y.W.C.A. assembly hall where gathered some hundred of his friends.

The opening address was given by Lona Ingham Robinson, as follows:

"We meet today to pay our last public tribute of appreciation to our comrade and leader, Luke North, recently passed from our midst. But these will not be his last tributes. There will be hundreds, thousands all over this land for years to come as the work he began comes to fruition.

As he lived not to himself alone, no true idea of him can be given without mention of some of the obstacles against which he struggled.

But he would have it that he never sacrificed himself. Civilization as he knew it, pained him, and to alleviate his own pain, he would reform it on basic principles. That was all! The fact dawned on him first, that propaganda of the Single Tax idea academically by after-dinner orators might go on for a thousand years and never a thing would happen; not so much as one hungry child would be fed! He was called visionary; he was so visionary, his vision of freedom and justice were so intense, that he almost saw it materialize as he worked to enact it into law.

About that time the world was grappling with the problems of navigating the air. The only way to test these machines was to fly in them; and many brave fellows thus came to their death. But Luke was engaged in work far more fundamental. He was trying to establish by law, man's just relation to the land upon which he must live. The only way to test the legal machinery was to set it going and get into it. And the second attempt cost him his life.

He had no backing of money or position of any kind. He relied upon the common sense of the voters when presented with the just proposition.

He succeeded in getting on the ballot a measure, which if carried would at once begin to alleviate poverty.

He was immediately opposed by a coterie of near-single taxers shocked at his precipitation in bringing before the people a real Single Tax bill, and who insisted that their bill (with no Single Tax in it) which had been up twice before, should be substituted. They said their bill would not alarm business men, and that thousands of them would vote for it who were opposed to Single Tax (!). Their legal advisors declared that no kind of a Single Tax bill could be constitutional because the words necessary to state such a bill had not yet been adjudicated!

'This campaign of 1916 awoke interest clear across the Atlantic ocean, and the first thousand dollars came from England! Herman Kuehn was made co-administrator with Luke North and came from Minneapolis to throw in his genius and energy on the same terms. They both believed in doing 'the impossible'—until it was done.

When this bill was safely on the ballot, by 135,000 signatures, Luke was urged by the National Single Tax league chairman to come to the Fels Fund conference at Niagara Falls and tell them what he had done.

At the first session he was greeted by cheers which grew into a veritable ovation. But soon he was to perceive a miasmic mist of disparagement and calumny joined by another that had trailed clear across the continent. Both together, succeeded in emptying his honors of any material benefit to the campaign then pending.

The result of the election—small to him who went in to win—so amazed single taxers near the eastern coast that they got up with much time and expense, the Atlantic City single tax conference to indorse The Great Adventure movement. They paid Luke's return expenses to go there and tell them how he brought about such a big vote. But the same caluminous mists joined forces as before. His enemies expecting this time to bring him to bar in self defense for having brought out over 200,000 California votes for Single Tax! But this assembly now resolved into a National Great Adventure conference, turned a deaf ear to this faction who left utterly discomfited.

After weathering all such annoyances, Luke North and Herman Kuehn concentrated forces for a second onslaught against Privilege. Then, early in the campaign Herman suddenly dropped in the harness. Luke's right hand man was now gone. Still he did not swerve. He crowded down his grief with "Fill up the ranks; we must go on." And reinforcements, financial and otherwise, made going on still possible, even amid the confusion of a war year.

During this last summer his mind was continually at high pressure, meeting all sorts of emergencies. He worked his frail body up to the limit both at the home office and at San Francisco, where his near-single tax opponents were assiduously abetting the Anti-Single Tax league with falsehoods in the daily press. He was literally spending his heart's blood in that campaign. At its close, his earthly life was fast nearing its end. Even then he could not be allowed to rest. He must meet one more buffet. Because of a falling off in the percentage of single tax votes—in war time—below his own previous record, a move was set on foot from supposedly friendly quarters, to call a vote as to his continued leadership. His last Everyman shows the kindly and philosophic spirit with which he met this thrust. He could not hold rancor even against his enemies. Then the hundreds of letters,

votes of confidence in his continued leadership that now poured in, were a great satisfaction to him.

H. W. Noren, Pittsburg: "Just two men have in any degree reached the masses, namely: Henry George and Luke North."

Olive Schreiner tells of the march of a swarm of locusts, that coming to a stream, threw themselves into it, drowning in great numbers. But those who followed could pass over the water on the dead bodies of their comrades. Luke North, as well as Herman Kuehn, threw his life down that those to follow could cross over on the results of his work and experience, the present inhuman gap between slavery and economic freedom."

L. D. Beckwith, Atascadero, paid a fine tribute to the man and his personal influence in arousing enthusiasm. In closing he read the following poem by John O. Varion, Halcyon:

Philosopher, poet, hero! unconquerably, persistently, building true growth into humanity;

Human, unassuming, kindly, he of the high ideals, broad understanding, and deep vision,

The mysterious door has opened for him.

He will be seeing into the depths of ideation now,

He will be sensing the age-old soul of Humanity Itself,

He is turning inward to the Gods of High Growth for renewal,

He is the warrior worn by his lifelong fighting for free racial manifestation,
He will be with the Christos strengthening the strong soul in him for another day.

And we behind here facing the evils he fought,

We must not be forgetting this persistent indomitable spirit,

We must be lighting ourselves now by his dauntless flame of inspiration;

We must not forget his kindly tolerant understanding,

For the Gods of Readjustment are walking the Earth,

And the sword of Justice must be tempered with Love.

Philosopher, poet, hero! unconquerably, persistently, building true growth into humanity,

Human, unassuming, kindly, he of the high ideals,

The mysterious door has opened for him,

The Great Adventure of Adventures has called him inward.

Clara P. Wright, San Pedro: Spoke in appreciation of Luke North and his work."

E. L. Loutrel, Los Angeles: Among other things said, "Luke North was the most indefatigable worker for Single Tax I have ever known."

James Lynch, Pasadena: Paid a beautiful tribute to Luke North.

Murray Schloss, Los Angeles: Greatly praised the work done by Luke North and suggested a memorial issue of The Great Adventure.

W. F. Burgener, Norwalk: Spoke earnestly in tribute to our departed leader.

N. J. Wright, San Pedro: "Luke North was one of the staunchest fighters for Single Tax I have ever known."

Josie Thorpe Price, Los Angeles: "Luke North could sway men and reach the masses as no other man since Henry George's time. Every phase of man's relation to man was vital to him."

Lucy Durham, Glendale: "As I passed by his bier and gazed on his peaceful face, I thought, his work is not done but just begun."

Harriet Dunlop Prenter, Toronto, spoke relative to Luke North's ovation at Niagara Falls: "His work will certainly live." She read numerous telegrams and letters sent since his demise.

Rosetta Waters Merrick, Glendale, read the following poem,
 He, the man of ideals and earnestness
 Untrammeled by Time's custom's
 Undaunted by pillars of opposition,
 Unharmed by envy and calumny
 Untethered by man's warp of gold,
 Unbound by rules save those,
 Of human kindness,
 He, the great soul, with sight so clear
 And faith so strong
 Bore the standard of Single Tax

High upon the hilltops!
 Visioned it against the sky
 Where it burned into the scarred
 Hearts of men.
 And behold!
 Out of the ashes of the past
 The flower of Justice arises
 And on each petal clearly cut,
 I see the name we love and revere,
 Our brother, Luke North.

Immediately after the memorial service some twenty-five of those present repaired to the headquarters office and there decided to get out a memorial issue of *The Great Adventure*.

Extracts From a Few Letters Written Before and Since

W. D. Hoffman, Berkeley: Only the fiery crusade and high idealism of a sincere free land fight could reach the pocket books of the rank and file as the last two campaigns have done. It was never done before. I believe in a popular financial support . . . and you have demonstrated its present practicability. I fear we should have a long and rocky road to travel in finding another who can do so well.

As to objection to your leadership—the question of personality—that you have alienated many good workers, there are two sides to that. It is impossible to conduct a full-fledged fight without division. There is no movement worthy of the name without two schools. Let the home-rulers home-rule to their heart's content—we are out to free the land! But you are guilty of alienating some fundamental single taxers? Perhaps they are guilty of a lack of devotion to a great general principle, or of misunderstanding. Perhaps you are guilty; and if you had been a better diplomat such alienating would not have happened. But I have seen you work—always for a crust, at a great personal sacrifice—and I know this: That for every single taxer you scared away you got a hundred new ones to take their places.

On the side of personality, you err favorably to the cause, for the reason that when we admit the charge, we know that the whole Great Adventure revolved about that same personality. Your contagious eloquence and enthusiasm enabled you to get new converts faster than the old ones could get out. And they didn't all get out. Most of those who have got out have since proved they care more for the defeat of singletax than its success."

Feb. 17: What California knows today of the fundamental land solution, it owes next to Henry George, to *The Great Adventure* and Luke North. He could have sat in the editorial chairs of our most opulent newspapers and commanded position and wealth. He chose the humble path. And he stuck to the end—stuck fighting. Ah! what a fighter. Tho death stood waiting, almost tapping his shoulder hour by hour, Luke North stuck to the fight against Landlordism and poverty throughout the world—Stuck to the end!

J. H. Young, Alameda: "It was my privilege and pleasure to know Luke North twenty years ago when he was in the newspaper business in San Francisco. I have often sat with him in the small hours of the morning and listened to him talk of the big things of life. One thing at all times was very predominant in the mind and soul of Luke North, he loved his fellowmen."

J. A. Haggstrom, San Francisco: "He was an able writer and untiring worker for the Cause. He spurned any compromise with injustice. He did good work for

the simple, the great and only change that will establish justice. And without justice can we hope for any real peace on earth? Many will mourn our brother Luke North."

Norman Duxbury, San Francisco: The past ten years have shown me not a man who has been able to do one hundredth part of what you have already done. Until that man comes you cannot quit. And when he does it will not be necessary.

Charles K. Stern, San Francisco: I herewith register an affirmative vote for you.

Maude N. Brodeur, Berkeley: He fought a good fight and lived to see the dawn of the day for which he trove. He wanted to make California the morning hour. There is in our hearts now more of the hope that conquers because Luke North lived and worked.

Hugh Craig, Piedmont: Stay by the ship One Tax! This is no time for home rule or tax reform. We've passed that stage.

Benj. Putnam, Winters: If there is any one else in California more capable than yourself of handling the situation then why haven't they been heard from during all the years past? Keep at the throttle and the 'faithful' will endeavor to furnish enough fuel to keep the ship going until she safely reaches the long looked for port.

Wm. Breitinger, Bakersfield: "By all means stay in command. You have the land plutes scared as they never have been before. They are already advocating a change making compulsory 25% of the voters to sign petitions on tax questions. Your hit straight from the shoulder policy has brought this about and will eventually win the fight. Pussyfooting methods only prolong the agony."

Harvey E. Westgate, well-known newspaper man, Chicago: "Altho I had known Luke North only a short time, I loved him as a brother. His ability as a writer, his sincerity, and above all his fighting ability while battling great odds I recognized from the first. The work he carried on will not stop. No man since Henry George has so ably fought for the principles of Single Tax."

W. J. Wallace, Belleville, N. J.: I certainly hope that you will consent to stay and remain at the head of the movement in your state. If the program in California is to declare that the rental value shall be absorbed by the state or an equivalent, I will be able to continue some support. The vote that was received for the amendment this year in California was very satisfactory. There was a tremendous sentiment everywhere against anything that it was thought would in any way interfere with the success of the war. Under the circumstances you did marvellously well. With best wishes for the future of the next California campaign, and hoping that you may remain at the head of the movement.

C. A. Teagle, Houston, Tex.: Single Taxers of California who have shown active opposition to The Great Adventure movement should feel shame and humiliation for their actions in the past two or three years, and the result of their opposition. The least they could do, it seems to me, is to have remained quiescent and allowed the fight to progress unhindered.

Wm. L. Ross, Philadelphia, Pa.: Do not accept the lucrative position offered you. Go on with the campaign. I'm for you first, last, and all the time.

Songs of the Great Adventure

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unrelenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. The blending of the two sides of his nature found expression in his songs, flung off in the quiet of the cloister in the short hours Luke allowed himself during the years of conflict. The Songs are not ephemeral; they breathe the spirit

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*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

of everlasting revolt. "Give Labor the Vision" pleads the poet in perhaps the most significant appeal to the hosts of workers that our Western movement has produced—epic in style. "The Great Adventure" is immortalized in the lines that Luke contributed to the furtherance of the movement. But life itself—naked, life—is held up to the light of the revolutionary vision. There is trust in humanity breathed into the Songs, a faith in the victory of The People that sustained Luke North during the years when he turned the currents of his poet-soul into the difficult work of making this a fit world for the development of poets—a world which will make poets of us all.

A limited edition (the first and only edition) of these beautiful poems was left by Luke North when he answered the summons home. The book, may be purchased thru The Great Adventure, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles; cloth binding \$1.50; paper, \$1.00. Those who knew and loved Luke should have the volume for the treasuring of memories of the cause; those who knew him not should have the Songs for the sake of the world of inspiration and beauty they will unfold.

DAVID BOBSPA.

AN APPEAL

We, the members of the California group of Great Adventurers immediately associated with Luke North in the last single tax campaign, are putting forth this memorial issue of The Great Adventure as a tribute to our able and faithful leader recently passed from our midst.

He it was who first broke the thirty-five year habit of merely talking about Single Tax. "Somebody must begin to put it into operation and now." And he threw his genius into the fight.

This issue is paid for by California contributors and adds not to the deficit left at the close of the campaign.

In Everyman, Luke North explained this to be a debt for mechanical work and printing for the campaign. What was never published was that he and his wife worked all through the campaign on just their living expenses. There were never any stipulated salaries.

At the rate that managers of other campaigns were paid, the amount earned by the two that they did not get would go far toward liquidating the deficit. The treasurer and secretary—since it was possible to do so—contributed their services.

So, comrades and friends in the Cause, while we are assured that The Great Adventure movement will continue, we must first close up the books of the late campaign. Let us close them up as cleanly and liberally as befits the work achieved.

What we ask is not for Luke. He is beyond reward. It is for our own privilege and exemplification. Let's clean the slate.

Act at once. Please do not delay. Mail checks and postoffice orders to The Great Adventure Committee, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles, California.

36.00
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Complete

APR 21 1919

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

APRIL 15, 1919

No. 1

Give a Man Security That He May Reap and He Will Sow

By HENRY GEORGE

Extracts from Chapter I, Book VII, of "Progress and Poverty"

The recognition of individual proprietorship of land is the denial of the natural rights of other individuals—it is a wrong which *must* show itself in the inequitable division of wealth. For as labor cannot produce without the use of land, the denial of the equal right to the use of land is necessarily the denial of the right of labor to its own produce. If one man can command the land upon which others must labor, he can appropriate the produce of their labor as the price of his permission to labor. The fundamental law of nature, that her enjoyment by man shall be consequent upon his exertion, is thus violated. The one receives without producing; the other produces without receiving. The one is unjustly enriched; the others are robbed. To this fundamental wrong we have traced the unjust distribution of wealth which is separating modern society into the very rich and the very poor. It is the continuous increase of rent—the price that labor is compelled to pay for the use of land, which strips the many of the wealth they justly earn, to pile it up in the hands of the few, who do nothing to earn it.

Why should they who suffer from this injustice hesitate for one moment to sweep it away? Who are the land holders that they should thus be permitted to reap where they have not sown?

Consider for a moment the utter absurdity of the titles by which we permit to be gravely passed from John Doe to Richard Roe the right exclusively to possess the earth, giving absolute dominion as against all others. In California our land titles go back to the Supreme Government of Mexico, who took from the Spanish King, who took from the Pope, when he by a stroke of the pen divided lands yet to be discovered between the Spanish or Portuguese—or if you please they rest upon conquest. In the Eastern States they go back to treaties with Indians and grants from English Kings; in Louisiana to the Government of France; in Florida to the Government of Spain; while in England they go back to the Norman conquerors. Everywhere, not to a right which obliges, but to a force which compels. And when a title rests but on force, no complaint can be made when force annuls it. Whenever the people, having the power, choose to annul those titles, no objection can be made in the name of justice. There have existed men who had the power to hold or to give



exclusive possession of portions of the earth's surface, but when and where did there exist the human being who had the right?

The right to exclusive ownership of anything of human production is clear. No matter how many the hands through which it has passed, there was, at the beginning of the line, human labor—some one who, having procured or produced it by his exertions, had to it a clear title as against all the rest of mankind, and which could justly pass from one to another by sale or gift. But at the end of what string of conveyances or grants can be shown or supposed a like title to any part of the material universe? To improvements such an original title can be shown; but it is a title only to the improvements, and not to the land itself. If I clear a forest, drain a swamp, or fill a morass, all I can justly claim is the value given by these exertions. They give me no right to the land itself, no claim other than to my equal share with every other member of the community in the value which is added to it by the growth of the community.

Has the first comer at a banquet the right to turn back all the chairs and claim that none of the other guests shall partake of the food provided, except as they make terms with him? Does the first man who presents a ticket at the door of a theater, and passes in, acquire by his priority the right to shut the doors and have the performance go on for him alone? Does the first passenger who enters a railroad car obtain the right to scatter his baggage over all the seats and compel the passengers who come in after him to stand up?

CHAPTER II.

There is nothing strange in the fact that, in spite of the enormous increase in productive power which this century has witnessed, and which is still going on, the wages of labor in the lower and wider strata of industry should everywhere tend to the wages of slavery—just enough to keep the laborer in working condition. For the ownership of the land on which and from which a man must live is virtually the ownership of the man himself, and in acknowledging the right of some individuals to the exclusive use and enjoyment of the earth, we condemn other individuals to slavery as fully and as completely as though we had formally made them chattels.

Personal liberty—that is to say, the liberty to move about—is everywhere conceded, while of political and legal inequality there are in the United States no vestiges, and in the most backward civilized countries but few. But the great cause of inequality remains, and is manifesting itself in the unequal distribution of wealth. The essence of slavery is that it takes from the laborer all he produces save enough to support an animal existence, and to this minimum the wages of free labor, under existing conditions, unmistakably tend. Whatever be the increase of productive power, rent steadily tends to swallow up the gain, and more than the gain.

CHAPTER IV.

Thirty thousand men have legal power to expel the whole population from five-sixths of the British Islands, and the vast majority of the British people have no right whatever to their native land save to walk the streets or trudge the roads. To them may be fittingly applied the words of a Tribune of the Roman people:

"Men of Rome," said Tiberius Gracchus—"men of Rome, you are called the lords of the world, yet have no right to a square foot of its soil! The wild beasts have their dens, but the soldiers of Italy have only water and air!"

The result has, perhaps, been more marked in England than anywhere else, but the tendency is observable everywhere, having gone further in England owing to circumstances which have developed it with greater rapidity.

CHAPTER II, BOOK 8.

It is an axiom of statesmanship, which the successful founders of tyranny have understood and acted upon—that great changes can best be brought about under old forms. We, who would free men, should heed the same truth. It is the natural method. When nature would make a higher type, she takes a lower one

and develops it. This, also, is the law of social growth. Let us work by it. With the current we may glide fast and far. Against it, it is hard pulling and slow progress.

I do not propose either to purchase or to confiscate private property in land. The first would be unjust; the second, needless. Let the individuals who now hold it still retain, if they want to, possession of what they are pleased to call *their* land. Let them continue to call it *their* land. Let them buy and sell, and bequeath and devise it. We may safely leave them the shell, if we take the kernel. *It is not necessary to confiscate land; it is only necessary to confiscate rent.*

Nor to take rent for public uses is it necessary that the State should bother with the letting of lands, and assume the chances of the favoritism, collusion, and corruption this might involve. It is not necessary that any new machinery should be created. The machinery already exists. Instead of extending it, all we have to do is to simplify and reduce it. By leaving to land owners a percentage of rent which would probably be much less than the cost and loss involved in attempting to rent lands through State agency, and by making use of this existing machinery, we may, without jar or shock, assert the common right to land by taking rent for public uses. We already take some rent in taxation. We have only to make some changes in our modes of taxation to take it all.

What I, therefore, propose, as the simple yet sovereign remedy, which will raise wages, increase the earnings of capital, extirpate pauperism, abolish poverty, give remunerative employment to whoever wishes it, afford free scope to human powers, lessen crime, elevate morals, and taste, and intelligence, purify government and carry civilization to yet nobler heights, is—*to appropriate rent by taxation.*

In this way the State may become the universal landlord without calling herself so, and without assuming a single new function. In form, the ownership of land would remain just as now. No owner of land need be dispossessed, and no restriction need be placed upon the amount of land any one could hold. For, rent being taken by the State in taxes, land, no matter in whose name it stood, or in what parcels it was held, would be really common property, and every member of the community would participate in the advantages of its ownership.

Now, insomuch as the taxation of rent, or land values, must necessarily be increased just as we abolish other taxes, we may put the proposition into practical form by proposing—

To abolish all taxation save that upon land values.

We Must Make Land Common Property

What the Single Tax Movement is most in need of is moral courage; courage to stand for the principles of Henry George; courage to stand with that fearless leader and say "We must make land common property"; courage to repeat with him "That private property in land is a bold, bare, enormous wrong like that of chattel slavery." Nothing is to be gained by telling bankers and chamber of commerce bodies how conservative the Single Tax is and how the exemption of buildings from taxation will benefit land owners.

It is well enough to explain that the Single Tax will combine the advantage of private possession of land with the justice of its common ownership. But let us not try to gain favor by seeking to be respectable in the eyes of those to whom the Single Tax is merely an intellectual cult. Luke North had the right policy. He appealed to the crowd to demand a free earth—Now. The large vote at two elections was a great moral victory. We want faith, work and moral courage.

Henry George and Luke North both believed with Emerson that God will not have His work made manifest by cowards. Let those who can content themselves with slapping the monster of Landlordism on the wrist do so. Or, if they would go so far as to cut a little of his tail off with a pen-knife we will not object. But we prefer to use an ax. We intend to cut his tail off just behind his ears. But it requires faith, work and moral courage.—W. L. R.

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*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

The People of the State of California do Enact as follows:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921, and thereafter, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected thereby; provided that this shall not prevent the State or its subdivisions from charging for services of public-owned utilities, but the earnings thereof shall be used only for operating expenses, the upkeep of the service, its extension, or the acquisition of other utilities.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

A copy of the above bill, left by Luke North, was submitted to Mr. W. L. Ross, of Philadelphia, Pa., who, possessing the heart of an Adventurer, is leaving his former occupation in Philadelphia and will be here in June, to throw in his lot with us, and to assume the Chairmanship of the California Great Adventure. His indorsement, as follows, comes just in time for publication.

"Editor of The Great Adventure:

You should by all means submit the full straight Single Tax amendment so carefully and ably developed by Luke North and slightly improved in the wording by Judge Ryckman to prevent wrong interpretations. Hon. James G. Maguire, the old friend and advisor of both Henry George and Luke North approves of no backward step and I am sure the supporters of The Great Adventure are practically unanimous for the bill as it stands. No other bill yet proposed is as good. If the present bill were no better than any other I should say submit it as a token of love and esteem in honor of the memory of Luke North who toiled, suffered and died in the cause of the land for the people. Let us at least show this small measure of gratitude for the work he did so well.

Yours very truly,

(Sig.) W. L. ROSS.

Philadelphia, April 4, 1919.

Statement of ownership and management of The Great Adventure Monthly. Published and owned by The Great Adventure Committee, Los Angeles, Cal. Editors: Mrs. Harriett Dunlop Prenter, Mrs. Diana Griffes and August Gamble. Mortgages, bondholders, etc., none. (Signed) Diana Griffes. Sworn to March 21, 1919, before S. G. Pandit, notary, whose commission expires January 23, 1923.

Use the following blank. Send for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

**TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in for
subscriptions (at 25c each) to The Great Adventure Weekly 203 Tajo Bldg.
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The Great Adventure

MAY 15, 1919

Published monthly by THE GREAT ADVENTURE, 203 Tajo Bldg., 1st & Bdwy., Los Angeles, Cal.
Editors: HARRIET DUNLOP PRENTER, DIANA GRIFFES, AUGUST GAMBLE. Year 25 cents.
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Vol. 3

MAY 15, 1919

No. 2

FREE THE LAND

WRITING at San Francisco in 1879, Henry George well said: "The ownership of land is the great fundamental fact which ultimately determines the social, the political, and consequently the intellectual and moral condition of a people. And it must be so. For land is the habitation of man, the storehouse upon which he must draw for all his needs, the material to which his labor must be applied for the supply of all his desires; for even the products of the sea cannot be taken, the light of the sun enjoyed, or any of the forces of nature utilized, without the use of land or its products. On the land we are born, from it we live, to it we return again—children of the soil as truly as is the blade of grass or the flower of the field. Take away from man all that belongs to land, and he is but a disembodied spirit. Material progress cannot rid us of our dependence upon land; it can but add to the power of producing wealth from land; and hence, when land is monopolized, it might go on to infinity without increasing wages or improving the condition of those who have but their labor. It can but add to the value of land and the power which its possession gives. Everywhere, in all times, among all peoples, the possession of land is the base of aristocracy, the foundation of great fortunes, the source of power. Said the Brahmins, ages ago: "To whomsoever the soil at any time belongs, to him belong the fruits of it."

On the recognition of these elementary concepts and the realization of their importance depend the life and happiness of mankind. Food, clothing, shelter—the primary and essential needs of human life—the things without which life is impossible, come now, today, as they always have come in the past and will come in the future from but one source—the earth. To deny this by ignoring it is supreme folly; to recognize and act upon it is the true test of intelligence.

But with vast areas of land held idle and closed to those who could otherwise use them in the production of food, clothing and shelter,

what is to be done. The only positive, definite and practical answer to this question is made by the Single Taxers. They point out the source of all necessities of existence; they call attention to the undisputed fact that this source, owned as it is by a few and by them closed against use, has all the force and effect of reducing the size of the earth, and that the millions of acres now owned and denied to workers might just as well be in the moon, be covered by an Arctic ice-cap or be turned into an uninhabitable desert. Their remedy is to do away with the present monopoly of the earth by a few and open it up to all on equal terms. There is plenty of land for everybody if a few were not encouraged by our laws to hog it and play the dog in the manger. Who makes the laws? The people. Who amends or repeals the laws? The people. Hence, we Single Taxers propose that our land laws shall be amended so as to make it difficult to hold land out of use for speculation, but easy for any one to get land for use.

With this object the Great Adventure was formed—an association of those who are convinced that the earth was created for all and not for a few; that the poverty, suffering and misery of millions of human beings is caused by the institution of landlordism.—Anonymous.

THE CALL TO ARMS

By E. L. Duffy.

A nationwide determination is crystallizing that Monopoly must not resume control in the New America.

Our cause—the cause of the Single Tax—of free competition and free land, is not before the public.

Now is our hour of trial! Now is the time for brave hearts and red blood!

Our course is the sane course. If we unflinchingly man our guns as the pirates of Monopoly bear down, thinking men from both sides will see the light. They will flock to our banner by the thousands.

For the Single Tax—now is the fateful moment!

Are you a procrastinator or a doer? A dreamer or an actor?

Our bill—the revised Luke North bill—the only measure sufficiently red-blooded to turn back the coming conflict, is ready.

Petitions must go into circulation at once. This means money! Money in the name of Justice, Humanity and Right!

It may be *your* dollar that turns the tide!

George, and Johnson, North and Kuehn gave everything to the fight. Surely you will not betray them!

Do your bit! Do it now!

A large supply of literature will be shipped here by the National Single Tax League to be sold in California at the price that they cost to publish. Included among them are "Case Plainly Stated," "Crime

of Poverty" and many other popular books and pamphlets which ought to be of interest to those who are Single Taxers, and be valuable in assisting those who are not to comprehend the fundamental principle of Single Tax. This is how the League is helping us in the campaign; now let us do our bit to circulate this splendid literature among the voters of California.

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF NATURE

By Josie Thorpe Price.

Nature's law is, that wherever men congregate and settle, land becomes valuable. There money is needed for public purposes and there, in the land value, nature supplies a fund, ever adequate. Each newcomer, from helpless infant to snow-crowned age, adds value to the land. It is an extrinsic value contributed to by everyone that lives and moves on the land.

This fund keeps pace with the need for public improvements. The denser the population, the more crowded the streets, the greater is the rush of individuals toward any given point, and there the values soar into millions and billions, as in New York and London. If the people emigrate to other localities, such values disappear.

This common fund, this value which owes its existence and perpetuity to the presence of the people, must be used for public purposes ere the House of Civilization can have any foundation, save of sand.

To insist that this foundation shall now—since the old world is passing from under our feet—be imbedded in the rock of Justice and made stable for all time is "The Duty of the Hour."

SOMETHING IS SUCKING THE LIFE BLOOD OUT OF DUBLIN

A writer in a recent number of *The Nation* says that Dublin, Ireland, "bears the appearance of a vast dilapidated slum * * * an atmosphere of decay and hopelessness and hideous penury rests on the scene; the dirty, ill-kept streets and broken-down public utilities, the listless people, the glimpses of abject poverty, the air of utter stagnation and impotence, testify that something has sucked the life-blood out of Dublin," and he adds: "When we leave the city and pass into the countryside, we find the same conditions." The writer mentioned attributes the decay to British misrule.

"Something has sucked the life-blood out of Dublin!" Impressive that, and full of meaning! It suggests leeches and parasites, creatures that live by absorption, taking everything and giving nothing, preying upon the bodies of others, existing and growing bloated upon the labor and life around them.

This is exactly what the landlord, as such, does. The more he takes the less you have, and as you grow lean he waxes fat. You may double your exertions and produce much more wealth, but that will not help you, for the more you produce the more he absorbs. "Something is sucking the life-blood out of Dublin!" Aye, out of Ireland, out of England, out of every country and every state, out of our state, California. This sucking power, too, is everywhere the same. It goes with the legal right to own land, and gives strength and vitality to the institution of private property in land.—Anonymous.

Thru a clerical error the name of Mr. B. R. Tucker, Paris, France, was put on the contributors' list published in the December Everyman. Mr. Tucker was contributed for by someone here who, not having given their own name, the donation was credited to the wrong person. We apologize to Mr. Tucker for this error, but we feel confident that in the near future he will see the necessity for free land and will aid us in bringing about a state of society where such will be possible.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.*

The People of the State of California do Enact as follows:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921, and thereafter, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected thereby; provided that this shall not prevent the State or its subdivisions from charging for services of public-owned utilities, but the earnings thereof shall be used only for operating expenses, the upkeep of the service, its extension, or the acquisition of other utilities.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC.,
REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,
Of The Great Adventure, published monthly at Los Angeles, Cal., for April 1, 1919:
State of California, County of Los Angeles, ss.

Before me, a notary public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared Diana Griffes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is one of the editors and the publisher of The Great Adventure, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor and business manager are:

Publisher, Diana Griffes, 203 Tajo Building. Editor, Diana Griffes, 203 Tajo Building. Managing Editor, Mrs. H. D. Prenter, 203 Tajo Building. Business Manager, August Gamble, 203 Tajo Building.

2. That the owners are: The Great Adventure Executive Committee, composed of the following members: Diana Griffes, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles; Mrs. H. D. Prenter, Bellevue Apts., Los Angeles; Mrs. J. T. Price, 1112 Elden Ave., Los Angeles; Dr. S. G. Pandit, Douglas Building, Los Angeles; A. P. Hahn, 1021 Ingraham Street, Los Angeles; J. H. McElroy, R. 12, Box 162, Los Angeles; August Gamble, Y. M. C. A., Pasadena.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: None.

DIANA D. GRIFFES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 21st day of March, 1919.

(Seal)

S. G. PANDIT.

(My commission expires January 23, 1923.)

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1919

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Vol. 3

JUNE 28, 1919

No. 3

ALL HAIL TO THE NEW MANAGER OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA!

By LONA INGHAM ROBINSON.

THIS movement to free the land of California for use immediately, was named, begun and carried through two campaigns—1916 and 1918—by that energetic and resourceful innovator, Luke North, so well known to the readers of this little paper. The passing of this distinguished pathfinder toward economic justice just three months after the latest election, left an inevitable hiatus in the work till another could be found as devoted to the cause and free to assume management of the movement. We are pleased to announce that this other has been found, and that Mr. William L. Ross from Philadelphia, has moved with his family to this state and is now installed—a California man—in the Great Adventure headquarters, 203 Tajo Bldg.

It is important to set forth a few of the life events of our new manager now so modestly assuming the duties of his office.

First, he was one of the promoters of the Atlantic City Single Tax Conference held two years ago last April, to celebrate the Great Adventure movement in California, and which paid the return expenses of Luke North. This Conference became national in its scope, and it is this organization that sent Mr. Ross out to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Luke North.

As far back as when Henry George first ran for mayor of New York

Great Adventurers

are invited to meet on Tuesday, July 1st, 6:30 P. M.,
at the B. and M. Cafeteria, 524 So. Hill Street.

Mr. W. L. Ross

will be the principal speaker. Plans will be presented for state organization. All Adventurers are urged to attend and co-operate.

Mr. Ross was led, by the ridicule in the daily papers of this man and his book, to investigate for himself "Progress and Poverty" and was captured by it for life. We find him next engaged in the Delaware campaign of 1896 doing street speaking. A mob led by the mayor of Dover ordered him to stop and when not obeyed, the mayor caused the meeting to be broken up by physical force. Fortunately Mr. Ross and his companions escaped injury and even avoided arrest, though at that time twenty-one of their comrades were in jail for the same offense—speaking on the Single Tax.

Later, Mr. Ross took a course in political economy at Drexel Institute in Philadelphia and took part in Henry George's second campaign for mayor of New York in 1897.

When Tom L. Johnson ran for governor in Ohio, Mr. Ross made about thirty speeches in his campaign.

For twenty-one years Mr. Ross was Superintendent of The Public Baths' Association of Philadelphia, besides being for many years one of the trustees.

He is a director of the American Association for the Promotion of Hygiene and Public Baths, of which Dr. Simon Baruch of New York is president. Also Mr. Ross was president of the Philadelphia Single Tax Society many years.

It is plain that Mr. Ross comes to us with a record for intense and persevering devotion to civic, social and economic betterment.

On May 26, anticipating his departure for California a dinner was given in his honor in Philadelphia attended by about eighty of his friends and the following testimonial and hope for his success in The Great Adventure drawn up:

We, the friends of WILLIAM L. ROSS, present at a supper given in his honor at Philadelphia, May 26, 1919, on the occasion of his departure for California to engage in the work for THE GREAT ADVENTURE, are pleased to bear witness to the high regard we have for him, for his personal qualities, his character and attainments, and particularly to the devoted service he has given for many years to the advancement of the Single Tax.

We hope that success will crown his work and that the State in which Henry George first revealed the Natural Law of Society will be the first to conform to it, knowing as we do that unless our laws are based on justice the social structure cannot stand, nor is the welfare or happiness of mankind possible.

We honor WILLIAM L. ROSS for dedicating himself to the realization of the truth made clear by Henry George and for "doing it now," and our best wishes go with him and with Anna H. Ross, his wife, to their new field of endeavor in a cause SO NEAR THEIR HEARTS AND OURS.

C. M. Hoose
Florence Garvin
Henry C. Lippincott
C. L. Bordner
Arthur M. Dewees
Katherine L. Meroney
Marshall Charllock Smith
Charles L. Servill
Nellie Seeds Nearing

T. Oscar Hardegg
Katherine F. Ross
Florence A. Burleigh
C. F. Shandrew
Solomon Solis Cohen
H. D. Groff
Henry S. Miller
Margaret J. Spicer
Scott Nearing

Edwin S. Ross
Haines D. Albright
Rebecca K. Hardegg
Florence W. Jones
Marion R. Woltemate
Richard Chambers
Katherine L. Chambers
Henry J. Gibbons
Henry W. Hetzel

W. Worthington, Jr.	Marshall E. Smith	Mary McK. Hetzel
John Goldsmith	Katherine J. Musson	Gertrude Garrod
T. W. Marks	Ingeborg S. Stephens	Alice H. Garrod
Edmund C. Evans	Jean G. Worthington	Henry S. Ford
Elizabeth K. Ross	Donald Stephens	Harold Sudell
Mary E. Ross	James D. O'Neil	A. R. Saylor
Florence C. Baragwanath	David Fitzgerald	Ellen Winsor
Simona C. Tawresey	Benj. F. Ross	J. B. Chamberlain
Margaret A. Callingham	F. M. Baragwanath	Rebecca Winsor Evans
Robt. D. Towne	Henry B. Tawresey	Angela Marké
Elenor G. Stephens	Wm. M. Callingham	Harry W. Olney
Mary Ware Dennett	Mrs. R. R. Towne	Rosa Kiefer
B. du Pont	Frank Stephens	Henry Kiefer
Emily Downs	Elizabeth Coyle	Daniel Kiefer, Jr.
S. Russell Smith	Mrs. S. Russell Smith	Daniel Kiefer

Also a meeting was held in his honor by the leaders of the Single Tax party of New York. It was arranged by Miss Corinne Carpenter of Brooklyn. Dinners and meetings were held for Mr. Ross in several cities on his way to our state.

A circular of pledges to financially support him and The Great Adventure movement was printed and sent out by another group of the Great Adventure supporters.

The enemies of the Great Adventure suppose the movement to be dead with the passing of Luke North, but all these things reveal a vitality quite unsuspected—not confined to any one locality nor to a few localities, but quickening all over this country, Canada and many other countries.

Immediate and Unconditional Surrender of the Land to the People!

By W. D. HOFFMAN.

This is our program. These are the words we purpose to inscribe on the banner we raise again in California for the liberation of the state and its people, and for the guidance of the world on the eve of a new era.

On this platform all foes of poverty can unite. Against it all the forces of reaction can and will unite, as they have united in the past even in the face of a more divided foe. Let the lines be drawn. Let the issue be clearly stated. Let there be no misunderstanding!

We seek no palliative. We seek no mere majority vote by trick, hook or crook. Even were such a vote possible—and it is not—it would mean nothing. It would be nullified by equal trickery in the courts or in hostile manipulation by state officials.

But we do seek to reach the consciences of the people; of the overwhelming masses of the disinherited; of the sufferers from economic stagnation and paralysis of every line of industry and labor.

And when we have done that our fight is finished for all time to come. Once roused to the fundamental truth that access to the earth is the

right of every human being there will be no going backward. There will be no thwarting the popular will by legal technicalities or subterfuges.

When that has been done—and we are at the dawn of the day—California will have indeed been liberated and the tide will roll as irresistibly from state to state as the day succeeds the night.

With this our platform we appeal to the electorate of California, to the loyalty and co-operation of all the followers of Henry George, and to the generous support of friends throughout the country. We ask the help of all forward-looking men and women to the end that universal serfdom shall cease.

Singletaxers and All Other Lovers of Liberty.

PROF. ARTHUR G. BRODEUR, University of Cal.

A principle that is worth anything is worth fighting for. If it's worth fighting for, it's worth paying for. Twice we have brought before the voters of California a measure which, had it been successful, would have put into effect the doctrine of Henry George and opened the way for the emancipation of the people by freeing the land.

The vote showed that of the proposed constitutional amendments submitted last fall the prohibition amendment was the most popular, with Single Tax second. Now with prohibition assured and the war over, Single Tax has a clearer field and a better chance of success at the polls than ever before.

The advertising value of the last two campaigns has been incalculable. But if it pays to advertise, it also costs to advertise. Every penny spent on Single Tax propaganda is an investment for humanity. How much is human justice worth to you? Translate that worth as fully as you can into dimes and dollars to help the good fight on. Let the Great Adventure know just as soon as you can what you will be able to do. Your delay delays them, and there is never time enough for all they have to do.

On with the campaign!

What Henry George Wrote:

"When told that they must beware of moving too quickly, people are not likely to move at all."

"A principle that in its purity will be grasped by the popular mind loses its power when befogged by concessions and enervated by compromises."

"And what those who would arouse thought have to fear is not so much opposition as indifference. Without opposition that attention cannot be excited, that energy evoked, that are necessary to overcome the inertia that is the strongest bulwark of existing abuses. A party

can no more be rallied on a question that no one disputes than steam can be raised to working pressure in an open vessel."

Killing the Cow to Wean the Calf.

Get the Landlord off your backs
With our little Single Tax.

Imagine a fully used island on which a thousand persons live in comfort or luxury. A reduction of one-half the area of the island, say by an earthquake, would be a far more serious misfortune to the inhabitants than if the population were doubled; but if the area is reduced by some insidious scheme such as private property in land has reduced the area of the island we call Earth, attention will immediately be called, not to the land withheld from use, but to the seeming fact that the population is too large for the space left to it; that "population has outrun subsistence," and that *this* is the cause of unemployment and poverty. To this fantastic and utterly grotesque conclusion the defenders of private property in land are driven. Knowing it to be absurd they teach Malthus in their colleges to save their faces. The stupidity of it finds its parallel in burning down the house to get roast pork; in the proposal to increase wealth by increasing taxes, and in killing the cow to wean the calf.—G. R. S.

Cornering Land—Enslaving Mankind!

We tenderly nurture a plant that poisons us all. That plant is land value. It creates two classes of people, the robbers and the robbed. It robs both of healthy human life. The robber is himself robbed of genuine happiness by eating bread he does not earn. He abuses his reasoning powers by trying to defend the immoral act of taking ground rent by an immoral legal contraption that makes private property of the earth.

The victim's state of mind is a natural reaction of one who has been robbed and knows it. He knows God created men equal and that laws made them unequal. If he does not know how, he yet feels a bitterness bred by constant toil for the benefit of others.

Until we uproot this plant, land value, courts of justice are but mockery. They but insure that the robbery shall be orderly. And the more orderly the robbery becomes the larger and safer it becomes also. Therefore the more just the courts are according to the law the more glaringly unjust are the effects upon mankind.

We think we buy and sell land, but we buy and sell men, women and children. We see people nominally free but every penny of land value represents stolen labor.

The right to rob our fellows is legally the most respectable while morally the most detestable.

A man can buy himself free by buying land. But a people can not buy themselves free. We constantly attempt it and as a result we create an artificial value of land, called speculative. Thus we pay today

a price for land based upon what we think its tribute exacting power will be twenty years hence.

In our madness to escape slavery by purchase we hasten our enslavement. The more people attempt to buy their freedom by land purchase the higher the price and the deeper their state of misery. Land value is the money value of a legally safe and profitable crime. The more you invest in it the bigger the crime becomes. We rear all kinds of beneficial institutions and they turn sour and become corrupt, because they are founded on this legal iniquity, the slavery of men.—H. W. Noren, in *The Probe*.

Call to the Colors.

By JOSIE THORPE PRICE.

Was the world ever in greater need of strong souls and high endeavor? The struggle which must revivify or ruin is on! Our John the Baptists crying in the wilderness have come and gone. Our Winkelreids of the east and west have fallen like chaff before the wind! Our young men row on row lie asleep on Flander's field! Shall we keep faith with those who died that we might live? Are we among those who "care"?

Everywhere breaches are opening thru which we may and should pass on regardless of personal weal. The people are innately good. As soon as they understand our beneficent innovation they will gladly embrace it. When they learn that we propose untaxing everything their fright will take flight. They will relax and look into this doctrine of "Peace on earth and good will to men," which is only taking for public purposes community made values to which all contribute, and in which all have an inherent right.

Land for Returning Soldiers

Many persons when they think or talk about *land* think of it as being used for agricultural purposes only, so that in their mental vision land looms as farms, actual or potential, to such a degree that its thousand and one other uses receive almost no consideration. Particularly is this true of those interested in government reclamation projects and in the movement designed to secure land for returning soldiers.

The soldier returns to his native land only to find it monopolized by a home guard called landlords. A paternalistic government in the effort to secure the soldier employment after discharging him from its service, can think of no better plan than to buy from this home guard crowd certain sections of the soldier's native land and then sell it to him on easy terms. But the government has no money which it does not first take from the people. So, to carry out the plan aforesaid it proposes to tax each family \$25. It is true the money is not raised exactly in this way. An appropriation is made by Congress of \$500,000,000, but what's the difference? The plan goes through—a very large and expensive bureau sees to that—and a few (a very few) soldiers are "put back on the land." The

home guard is highly pleased, for the action of the government increases the price which its members get for "their" land. The press, the pulpit, the politician and the public lecturer, the Chamber of Commerce and the Bankers' Association; all give the scheme their endorsement and sing its praises; the country resounds with tributes to its gratitude to "our heroes," and the bosom of the average citizen swells with pride as he thinks that he, even he, was instrumental in this glorious achievement.

Citizens, awake! Your government is being used by the land monopolists to deceive you. Land monopolists, with the active assistance of the financial and other privileged interests, including practically the entire newspaper press, are conducting a campaign to unload their worthless land-holdings on the returning soldier, and they are doing this not so much because they are desirous of selling these holdings as they are of diverting public attention from themselves and their ownership of valuable oil lands, mineral lands, city lots and millions of acres of the most fertile land in the world.

It's an old game these landgrabbers are playing. Do not be hoodwinked by it. Stand with us in demanding the single tax and together we'll test their sincerity for the returning soldier's welfare. For the single tax would, if adopted, put not only a few soldiers back on the land, but all of them, and along with them every other disinherited person. It can be put in effect, too, without any taxation or appropriation; without any action by a government bureau, and without any payment whatever for forestallers, landgrabbers, speculators and monopolists. Further, instead of buying from landlords and selling to soldiers tracts of land on which it is exceedingly difficult for anyone to make a living, the single tax would open up to use the very best land in the world—land on which it is easy for anyone to make a good living—on terms within the reach of all.

The campaign to open up the land of California to the people of California for their use and benefit is still on. We seek the aid and support of all intelligent men and women whether they are land speculators or not. We do this for the reason manifest to any unprejudiced investigator, that a single tax levied on land values would enormously increase the available land of the state, would in effect double the area of the state by choking off landowners who will neither use the land themselves nor permit others to do so; who play the dog in the manger and so prevent the employment of hundreds of thousands of workers, and stop the supply of wealth which these workers would produce if the landlord did not stand between them and the source of all wealth.—G. R. S.

Songs of The Great Adventure

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unrelenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. The blending of the two sides of his nature found expression in his songs, flung off in the quiet of the cloister in the short hours Luke allowed himself during the years of conflict. The Songs are not ephemeral; they breathe the spirit of everlasting revolt. "Give Labor the Vision" pleads the poet in perhaps the most significant appeal to the hosts of workers that our Western movement has produced—epic in style. "The Great Adventure" is immortalized in the lines that Luke contributed to the furtherance of the movement. But life itself—naked, life—is held up to the light of the

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revolutionary vision. There is trust in humanity breathed into the Songs, a faith in the victory of The People that sustained Luke North during the years when he turned the currents of his poet-soul into the difficult work of making this a fit world for the development of poets—a world which will make poets of us all.

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JUL 16

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

JULY 5, 1919

No. 4

An Illuminating Report

Because of its great importance and because many persons know nothing about the report of the State Commission on Immigration and Housing, or even know that such a report has been made, we take occasion to again call attention to it. One reason why so many are ignorant of the matter is that the press gave it no prominence whatever. In fact the press all but ignored it, and it is more than a mere inference that the same sinister influences which for the past two years have misrepresented and lied about our campaign for the adoption of the Single Tax Amendment, have been behind the effort to suppress the findings of the Commission. However this may be, the recommendation of the Commission that "a graduated land value tax be levied for the purpose of making large land holdings unprofitable" is practically in line with what the Single Taxers have all along been urging and, as a decision, it is about as welcome to the Anti Single Tax League of monopolist, speculators and landgrabbers as Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation was to Southern slaveowners.

For the information of our readers we reproduce here the figures and statements made by the Commission:

"One-half of the 4,587,581 acres of 'land in farms' in eight Southern California counties, or 2,295,140 acres are owned in about 250 holdings. Seven holdings exceed 50,000 acres each, one has 101,000 acres and another 183,399 acres. A considerable part of this tillable land lies idle and another considerable part is not devoted to its most beneficial use. Though there are many thousand persons eager to use this land, much of it is not for sale under any circumstances, and such portions as are for sale are held at prices beyond the productive value."

It should be noticed that the Commission refers only to "lands in farms" in a few counties and says nothing about the opportunities locked up in mineral and oil-bearing sections of the State, nothing about opportunities closed to production in city and town lots, nothing about opportunities denied through the monopoly of water sources, nothing about the slavery that private property in land produces. But it is not

our purpose to criticize the Commission. Its action is a step in the right direction and future progress is merely a matter of keeping on. We congratulate the members of the Commission on their commonsense view, their boldness in going to the heart of the matter and the courage with which they express their findings in the face of an opposition so powerful and unscrupulous that few indeed dare venture to incur its hostility or even arouse its displeasure. G. R. S.

A Free Earth or Disorderly Revolution

When John Boyle O'Reilly said that our civilization is intellectual barbarism, and our progress a march to a precipice, and Henry George proved it, the world would not listen. Material progress has quickened our journey, and the yawning chasm is ready to engulf us.

He must be blind indeed who does not see that relief from conditions which have become intolerable must come quickly. A free earth or disorderly revolution—that is to be our heritage. Yet we have men and women who have forgotten the A, B, C's of their philosophy, or who have become so much afraid of offending the smug parlor advocates of the truth, that they want to follow a timid, patch-work policy.

We want men and women in the movement who can look the devil in the face and tell him that he is a devil. Land monopoly is too strong to be overcome with sweet words spoken to those who have never felt the curse of poverty.

This is our cause. Upon us who see the remedy for the slavery that has chained the workers of the world; this slavery that makes beasts of men; this slavery that makes women weep and little children moan—upon us is the responsibility for relief. Are we big enough and fine enough to do our duty? Have we the courage of Henry George—bold, frank and uncompromising? Or shall we walk under the huge legs of land monopoly and peep about to find ourselves dishonorable graves? Such is not the policy of The Great Adventure.

W. L. R.

Gravitation—Man Cannot Live on Air.

We appeal to that which is highest in man—his sense of justice. From earliest childhood this principle has been dinned into our heads. Some of us have allowed it to penetrate to our hearts—we Single Taxers who are ready and anxious to change the system *now*, who feel the injustice of a government that permits a few to hold out of use millions of fertile acres (there are enough in this state alone to feed twenty million people) while women sell their souls for enough money to procure them food, and babies wilt like fallen flowers in filthy slums. Aye, little children face you—you who have never allowed this bold wrong to reach your hearts; little children whose eyes are darkened by hunger, and young girls and

men who would build homes to grace your landscapes. Not homes "that are a menace to you, O, Civilization," but homes built by men and women who have at last come into their own.

Whether you understand the minutiae of taxation, matters not. You need not understand the technology of the assessor's office. It is our intention to treat the liberation of the land of California as a moral issue—to show the injustice of private ownership in land—to hold up a banner which all can read on which is inscribed, that there shall be no land hogging in California, that soldiers or civilians, anyone who will use the land may use it.

To this end we ask, we *urge*, your cooperation. Those of you who are paying high prices for food and shelter in crowded corners of the earth while millions of acres lie idle between you and special privilege, come join our ranks! We want to change the system whereby a few are beneficiaries and open up the earth on equal terms to all.

We propose to take down all barriers and throw into use—your use—the twenty million idle acres of this state. When the fences of privilege are taken down here in the land of poppies, where the proletariat have slept so soundly, but who are now waking up in the swift wings of the morning of justice, we will go forth with our torches held high to give the message to all this vast union of ours.

What will you do to help? This is not "the other fellow's job". This is *your opportunity*.

D. D. G.

The National Single Tax League, of which Prof. Louis B. Johnson, Mr. H. H. Willock and Robert D. Towne are the officers, has consigned a large shipment of Single Tax literature to The Great Adventure for distribution in California. This literature will be sold at low rates. All Single Taxers in this state will be welcome to this literature at cost price when it arrives. They are urged to distribute as much of it as possible. In most cases it will be better to sell this literature than to distribute it free of charge.

Songs of The Great Adventure

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unrelenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. The blending of the two sides of his nature found expression in his songs, flung off in the quiet of the cloister in the short hours Luke allowed himself during the years of conflict. The Songs are not ephemeral; they breathe the spirit

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JULY 12, 1919

No. 5

Is This Too Radical?

NEARLY ten years ago the city of Vancouver abolished all taxes on buildings and other improvements and increased the tax on the value of land.

Unprecedented activity in building and other business followed. Wages increased and there was no scarcity of employment.

In self defense the city of Victoria was obliged to do the same thing. The same system was adopted by an overwhelming vote—about five to one—in its favor.

A year or more later Henry George, Jr., sounded a warning that if more of the rental value of the land was not taken in taxes their prosperity would come to an end and a period of hard times would follow. The depression came; not because of too much Single Tax, but too little.

The removal of taxes from industry without sufficiently increasing the tax on land values to prevent speculation sent the per capita value of land higher in Vancouver than in any other part of the world. Merely exempting improvements from taxation without taxing the land heavy enough to break down its monopoly makes no permanent change for the better.

In view of this experience and in view of the rapidly growing demand

Single Tax Meeting

All Single Taxers are invited to a Public Meeting, to be held

Thursday Evening, July 15,

at 7:30 P. M., at

Room 200, Blanchard Hall,
233 South Broadway, Los Angeles, Cal.



on the part of the people for quick relief from conditions which they may not tolerate much longer, let us offer something worth while by striking our hardest blow against land monopoly.

Turning land rentals over to the people at once instead of to private landlords would satisfy the requirements of justice. But to make an orderly change it would perhaps be better to adopt a constitutional amendment like our present measure that would at first take only enough ground rent in taxes for all expenses within the state, but add a provision for taking the full rental value of the land after a fixed date—say four years later. A similar amendment is proposed by the Single Tax League in Oregon and we believe it would meet with the approval of the majority of Single Taxers in this state. It is simple, just and practical. It would satisfy the hopes and aspirations of the masses of the voters when they once understood it. Such a law put into operation would give us a free earth in California and soon in the whole world. It would reduce the cost of living by making dear land cheap and cheap land free. It would raise wages, increase the earnings of productive capital, abolish poverty, and mean plenty for all.

What do our supporters think of such a program?

W. L. R.

A NEW RECRUIT.

A flood of sunshine has burst in upon the Great Adventure, and everyone is happy. George A. Briggs, of Wasco, California, one of the ablest, most experienced, and most genial men in the Single Tax movement, has joined our forces. He is now taking an active part in the work at headquarters, and re-organization is moving forward.

Mr. Briggs is a retired manufacturer. He was a member of the Fels Fund Commission associated thereon with Daniel Kiefer, Jackson H. Ralston, Frederick C. Howe, Lincoln Steffens and Charles H. Ingersoll, with Bolton Hall as an honorary member of that distinguished body. After many years of practical experience Mr. Briggs is confirmed in the belief that a bold, fearless demand for the immediate breaking down of land monopoly is the only wise course to pursue. The Great Adventure is fortunate in having the services of such a man as George A. Briggs.

Fear, prejudice and personal hate are the bulwarks of everything damnable in human institutions. They can have no place in any constructive program for the achievement of Justice. And of these three, personal hate is most damnable. It is a specialized and concentrated expression both of fear and prejudice. It obstructs the light of wisdom,

and the heat of the those affections in which constructive influence inheres.

W. L. R.

THE GREAT GUIDE POST OF THE CENTURIES.

By Josie Thorpe Price

Under title "Harry and the Guide Post", McGuffey's readers give us the story of a boy, lost in the darkness of the night. It was in the days when ghost stories were the stock in trade of every old "black mammy" in the land. This boy saw a gigantic figure loom up before him out of the gloom, which seemed to "stretch its naked arms across, to catch him by the hair!" Harry, though badly frightened, had been taught to be brave, and investigate, rather than run away from such specters, so "mustering all his courage up, he to the monster went, and eagerly through the dismal gloom his piercing eyes he bent. And—when he came well nigh the ghost, that gave him such a fright, he clapped his hands upon his side, and loudly laughed outright." For, it was only a friendly guide post, which not only showed him where he was but how to find his way back home.

We have often thought that the name Single Tax is unfortunate. It has frightened a lost world stumbling along in the darkness, just as the guide post did Harry. The people's patience has been worn to a frazzle from time immemorial by the very name of tax and taxation. And now at the proposal of a new and untried one, about which they know *absolutely nothing*, in fact have not time to look into or investigate; is it a matter of small wonder that they will have none of it?

If we, who have had leisure and opportunity to thoroughly examine and prove the worth of this saving truth as taught by the philosophers and humanitarians of our time, could reassure them, and make it plain to them, as it is to us, that it is in reality not a tax at all, but simply taking for community purposes a community-made value, which owes its origin, existence and perpetuity to the presence of the people, and that its adoption would relieve them of the great burden of taxes, rents and high cost of living, they would cease to run from, and would come nearer to examine this most wonderful Guide Post of the centuries. For two thousand years we have prayed "Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done here on earth as it is in heaven." Do we really care to have a heaven here, or have we been "just a funning" with God?

DO IT NOW.

On my way west I talked to quite a number of business and professional men about the Single Tax movement in California. They

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were almost unanimous in their opinion that we have nothing to gain and everything to lose by advocating anything less than a strong demand for the restoration of the land to the people. They agreed that the phenomenal success of Luke North in reviving interest in the Single Tax movement was due to his heroic policy of demanding a free earth—not at some time in the future—but NOW.

Some friends of the Single Tax are afraid that if we put it into practice too fast it will disturb business. Do not believe it. It will disturb only that part of business which is a leech on other business. The quicker we get rid of business which simply rides on the backs of labor and productive capital the better for all.

Under land monopoly business is a struggle up hill with the wheels locked. Labor pulls the load and capital is the driver. The Single Tax would throw off the brakes.

REPORT OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE MEETING.

The first meeting of The Great Adventure movement for the present campaign was held July 1st. Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson presided and delivered an address of welcome to William L. Ross, who was the principal speaker.

In his address Mr. Ross stated that with a measure for the immediate adoption of complete Single Tax in California, all Single Tax forces would unite to win. He was warmly applauded.

A committee of seven was appointed to definitely arrange for organization and to report to an adjoined meeting to be held not later than July 15th.

Several unexpected guests added enthusiasm to the meeting. George A. Briggs, formerly of Elkhart, Indiana, was present. Mr. Briggs is well known to Single Taxers thruout this country. It is his intention to put his shoulder to The Great Adventure job from now on here in California. E. L. Duffy, a Great Adventurer from Sacramento, George Rhinehart of The South Sea Island and Judge J. J. Points of Omaha, Nebraska, were present.

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Vol. 3

JULY 19, 1919

No. 6

Let the standard be lifted that all may see it;
Let the advance be sounded that all may hear it.
Let those who would fall back, fall back,
Let those who would oppose, oppose—
Everywhere are those who will rally.
The stars in their courses fight against Sisera!

—Henry George.

Sisera was the Canaanite general who led King Jabin's army against the rebels of Israel when they demanded the immediate restoration of the land to the people. The prophetess Deborah, who foretold his death, composed a great song for the victory, in which occurs—"The stars in their courses fought against Sisera!" (Judges).

SHORTSIGHTED is the philosophy which counts on selfishness as the master motive of human action. It is blind to facts of which the world is full. It sees not the present, and reads not the past aright. If you would move men to action, to what shall you appeal? Not to their pockets, but to their patriotism, not to selfishness, but to sympathy. Self-interest is, as it were, a mechanical force—potent, it is true; capable of large and wide results. But there is in human nature what may be likened to a chemical force; which melts and fuses and overwhelms; to which nothing seems impossible. "All that a man hath will he give for his life"—that is self-interest. But in loyalty to higher impulses men will give even life.

It is not selfishness that enriches the annals of every people with heroes and saints. It is not selfishness that on every page of the world's history bursts out in sudden splendor of noble deeds or sheds the soft radiance of benignant lives. It was not selfishness that turned Guatama's back to his royal home or bade the Maid of Orleans lift the sword from the altar; that held the Three Hundred in the Pass of Thermopylae, or gathered into Winkelried's bosom the sheaf of spears; that chained

Vincent de Paul to the bench of the gallery, or brought little starving children, during the Indian famine, tottering to the relief stations with yet weaker starvelings in their arms. Call it religion, patriotism, sympathy, the enthusiasm for humanity, or the love of God—give it what name you will; there is yet a force which overcomes and drives out selfishness; a force which is the electricity of the moral universe; a force beside which all others are weak. Everywhere that men have lived it has shown its power, and today, as ever, the world is full of it. To be pitiéd is the man who has never seen and never felt it. Look around! among common men and women, amid the care and the struggle of daily life, in the jar of the noisy street and amid the squalor where want hides—every here and there is the darkness lighted with the tremulous play of its lambent flames. He who has not seen it has walked with shut eyes. He who looks may see, as says Plutarch, that “the soul has a principle of kindness in itself, and is born to love, as well as to perceive, think, or remember.”

—Henry George.

LANDLORD PROFITEERING

In spite of the efforts of those who would divert attention from the land question, it is gradually and surely becoming a live issue. Reedy's Mirror, a publication of great brilliancy, has this to say:

The landlord everywhere is realizing on the war. He is realizing ruthlessly. City people are up against the universal land question and are begining to feel where it hurts and how. They are readier than ever to make common cause with farmers' organizations that demand land reform. The city tenant now begins to see what is behind the agitation carried on by the tenant farmers.

Farm owners, too, are agitating for land reform in the guise of tax reform. The Farmers' Non-Partisan League in North Dakota favors the abolition of taxes upon improvements.

The new Labor party in Illinois has a land-tax plank in its platform. The Farmers' National Single Tax League is preparing to move upon Congress for taxation of site value of land, exempting improvements and labor values, for government revenue.

The farmer is beginning to lose his scare over Single Tax. He sees that the tax will be on the value rather than on the land, and while he may have much land he has little land value. The folks who have the land value are not farmers of anything but farmers and city dwellers.

There are 750,000 farmers in the Farmers' National Council, favoring taxes “that will force into use unused land and other natural resources now speculatively held.” The Washington State Grange

favors the Single Tax and the National Grange, not dead as some suppose, but numbering a membership of more than a million, favors this natural taxation.

Organized Labor begins to see that there is nothing for labor in restricting production, and that taxes on products restrict production. Taxes on unused farm land would force it into productive use.

Millions of money are going into land now. The national and state governments will get none of this as revenue, save what shows as increased income. Investors in land get no income if they leave the land idle, but they get increased values just the same. Investment in land is a fine way for profiteers to avoid taxes on their war fortunes. They escape the war taxes and to the extent that they do so escape them, the tax they should pay falls upon the workers. The workers are not only overtaxed in taxes but in rents and high prices. The United States Commission on Industrial Relations, in its final report, recommended "the forcing of all unused lands into use by making the tax on non-productive land the same as upon productive land of the same kind and exempting all improvements" as a blow at farm tenancy and land speculation.

"Oh, but there isn't much unused land in the cities," says some one. Look around you as you ride on the street cars, and discover the mistake in this. There is no city in the country that has not almost as much vacant as improved land within its limits and immediately adjacent. Think, too, of the land with improvements that are not only no improvement but positively a deterioration. Every city has its blighted districts with disgraceful rookeries, but try to buy land in those districts and it is held high, though taxed criminally low. Tax the land at the values at which it is held and the rookeries would vanish and new houses take their places.

The rent profiteers in the city can be circumvented by taxing land so that its owner will be forced to erect buildings on it. Levy no taxes on buildings and more will be built. More buildings mean lower rents. More land in use means more production, more wealth, more business for the business man, more wages and more jobs for the worker. Tax away vacancy. Tax away the rookeries by the untaxing of better buildings. This is the program that the Farmers' National Single Tax League has laid before the chairmen of both the Republican and Democratic National Committees for consideration and action by those bodies. Those political organizations should not hastily reject the proposal. They must remember that the city people and the country people are both awakened to the land-rent-labor-living question.

Landlord profiteering is much in evidence everywhere. It is an

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abomination and an iniquity. The great parties must deal with it in a way to get rid of it. While it exists our democracy is a failure. Apply the Single Tax idea and the government will get more revenue and the country more prosperity and there will be an effective damper on dangerous discontent among the people.

Songs of The Great Adventure

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unrelenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. The blending of the two sides of his nature found expression in his songs, flung off in the quiet of the cloister in the short hours Luke allowed himself during the years of conflict. The Songs are not ephemeral; they breathe the spirit of everlasting revolt. "Give Labor the Vision" pleads the poet in perhaps the most significant appeal to the hosts of workers that our Western movement has produced—epic in style. "The Great Adventure" is immortalized in the lines that Luke contributed to the furtherance of the movement. But life itself—naked, life—is held up to the light of the revolutionary vision. There is trust in humanity breathed into the Songs, a faith in the victory of The People that sustained Luke North during the years when he turned the currents of his poet-soul into the difficult work of making this a fit world for the development of poets—a world which will make poets of us all.

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JULY 26, 1919

No. 7

THE GREAT ADVENTURE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

ON July 15th a gathering of earnest followers of Henry George held a public meeting in Los Angeles and formed The Great Adventure League of California. The meeting was well attended, enthusiastic and harmonious. It was held by the adherents of The Great Adventure, but it was open to all Single Taxers.

The following declaration of principles was unanimously adopted:

"We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."—Declaration of Independence.

"God has not put on man the task of making bricks without straw. With the need for labor and the power to labor, He has also given to man the material for labor. This material is land."—Henry George.

We contend that everywhere the prevailing systems of taxation by exploitation of the products of human labor, direct and indirect, are becoming more and more burdensome; that these intricate systems and devices operate to exact an unjust tribute from those who toil, penalize industry, create and foster private monopoly of natural resources, encourage speculation in the necessities of life and place a premium on dishonesty; that their continuance in force constitutes a barrier against the enjoyment of the fundamental rights of man, prevents the realization of the highest ideals of civilization, and should be abolished.

Fixing our gaze, therefore, upon the rising star of economic justice which to all open minds portends the recognition of the doctrine of human rights, as superior to property rights, we declare our adherence to the principle of the Single Tax upon the value of land as advocated by Henry George; our faith in its equity, our confidence in the beneficial results of its unlimited application; and hereby pledge our moral and financial support to all honorable endeavors to secure its immediate adoption.

The following officers were elected:

William L. Ross, president; Lona Ingham Robinson, 1st vice president; Reynold E. Blight, 2nd vice president; Prof. Arthur G. Brodeur,

3rd vice president; Diana D. Griffes, secretary; T. A. Robinson, treasurer.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted which provide that the affairs of the League shall be governed by an executive committee of nine members, the president to be one of the number.

Following are the members to serve on this committee:

August Gamble, J. W. Durham, A. V. Hahn, J. H. Ryckman, J. H. MacEldowney, Diana Griffes, George A. Briggs, T. A. Robinson, and William L. Ross.

The last three named constitute the finance committee.

It is the purpose of this organization to conduct a vigorous campaign for a free earth in California. Its members believe that to break down the private monopoly of land in this state would soon lead to the restoration of the land to the people everywhere.

In addition to what already has been accomplished in forming this organization, a state council is being organized to cooperate with the executive committee.

—William L. Ross.

THE PARTY OF ONE BIG TAX

From The Christian Science Monitor, July 14, 1919.

Of thousands of people who have been accustomed, in recent years, to hear the words "Single Tax," it is probably safe to say that mere hundreds of them have ever taken the trouble to learn what the words really stand for. The phrase is not exactly of a sort of allure those of casual mind. It suggests a problem, something which easy-going humanity dislikes to tackle, something of which a perhaps well merited consideration may be put over until another day. So it is that the Single Tax movement has gathered momentum only very slowly. There was at first what Louis F. Post calls the literary stage, following the appearance of Henry George's book, "Progress and Poverty." Then, in 1886, when Mr. George offered himself as a Labor candidate for the New York mayoralty, there was the Labor stage. This, in turn, was followed by a third stage, marked by the separation of Single Taxers and Socialists in 1888, and enduring until the beginning of the European War. With the end of the war came, for Single Tax as well as many other things, the opening of a new era.

Single Taxers are now convinced that their proposed reform, more obviously than ever, will solve the economic problems facing the country. They are therefore going into politics as a means of making their nationwide effort positive. Already they have had a convention, they have mapped out their program, and organizers are presently at work in many parts of the country setting things in motion for a national campaign which, they intend, shall result in the appearance of a Single Tax ticket for national and state officers in 1920, and the election of as many as possible of its candidates to positions in the government. Fifteen states were represented in the first national convention of the

Single Tax Party, and it is significant of the new attitude of the promoters of this reform that they decided to abandon certain other issues for which their following has been concerned in the past, pledging their whole attention to the main idea.

This idea is that a tax upon land values, or natural resources, will be sufficient to meet the government need for revenue and will have the effect of obviating other forms of taxation, of saving for the worker the use of the products of his work, of removing the burdens that now weigh down industry, and of securing private ownership of land and other property under conditions that shall be equitable for all. The specific pledge which Single Tax candidates for political office will be expected to subscribe to will embrace the doctrine that 100 per cent of the rental value of the land of the Nation belongs to the people of the Nation, and that there shall be no taxation or other restrictive regulation on the private enterprise and industry of the people.

Of course, the change here proposed is a radical one. But it appears conservative when compared to that which is openly advocated and fought for by the Bolshevik and I.W.W. groups. Intelligent, sober-minded, conscientious elements of the American populace have been for years earnestly studying and advocating the adoption of the Single Tax, and many who have not advocated its adoption have admitted its essential justice and beneficent potentialities. That the proposed reform is now to be put forward politically, therefore, is, on the whole, a welcome development. If the plan will do what its advocates insist that it will do, the Nation can hardly refuse to accept it. And one need only point to the Prohibition Party for evidence to show that advocacy through political action, if persisted in, will be one of the surest methods of bringing the question, in time, to the point of a comprehensive national decision.

A REPLY TO THE ABOVE.

To the Editor:

It is indeed refreshing to a Single Taxer to note the very generous editorial in the issue of the Christian Science *Monitor* of July 14th, just received.

Permit me to mention, however, that it would have been more stimulating to the hearts of true followers of Henry George if the fifth word of the headline of the editorial had not been used. In the first place its use is likely to suggest to the timid thought that it has some connection with the definition given to the "One Big Union" or confound it with that idea, which is not the truth. Secondly, the word "big" does not enter into the application of the Single Tax upon land values as advocated by Henry George. It means a smaller tax to the one who now must bear the burdens of *all* the taxes, viz: the consumer.

There is still another erroneous thought expressed in the editorial itself, wherein the statement is made that "it is significant of the *new* attitude of the promoters of this reform that they decided to abandon certain other issues for which their following has been concerned in the past, pledging their whole attention to the main idea."

It should be understood and so stated that the loyal Single Taxers have adopted no "new" attitude on the question, nor have they ever given their attention to any other issue than the "main idea," which is "One Single Tax on the value of land,

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irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it," which is the *sole* idea of the Henry George doctrine. Those who have injected other issues into the Single Tax movement, or tried to dilute its doctrine, have done so unconsciously or maliciously, from one of two causes:

1. They did not understand Single Tax, or
2. They did not want Single Tax.

The editorial, however, as stated, is generous, and Single Taxers who read it anywhere in the world, will feel grateful and take hope. It is the first time, so far as I recollect, that the *Monitor* has ever stated its position editorially on the Single Tax and now that the signs of the times are again appearing to those "intelligent, sober-minded conscientious elements of the American populace" who "have been for years earnestly studying and advocating the adoption of the Single Tax," they should not be frightened or intimidated by the terms "Bolshevik," "I.W.W.", "Anarchist," or, perhaps "Sinn Feiner," that may be hurled at them by those who do not know, or do not want to know, or, knowing, do not want the Single Tax.

(Signed) AUGUST GAMBLE.

Pasadena, Cal., July 19, 1919.

A STARTLING SITUATION

Forrest F. Dryden, president of the Prudential Life Insurance Company of America, in an article dealing with insurance statistics says in the August *American Magazine*:

"Out of one hundred average healthy men 25 years of age,
Sixty-four will reach the age of 65. Of these
One will be rich;
Four will be well-to-do;
Five will be earning their own living;
Fifty-four will be dependent upon friends or charity."
By all the saints of the Stand-Patters, what an indictment this is!
Possibly most folks do not know that this horrible state of affairs exists. Let us hope so.

But when they do learn of it, and it is your business and mine to see that they do, then surely they will take a little time away from business, base-ball and the movies to hunt for the cause and cure of poverty.

To anyone with an ounce of brains it must be obvious that this all-but-universal poverty for old folks cannot be the fault of the poverty-stricken individuals. Surely, no one is stupid enough to believe that 84 per cent of us are by nature incapable of supplying the bare necessities of our own lives.

Single Taxers can and must use these statistics to make a dent in the smug indifference which is the greatest bulwark of existing injustice.

Use the following blank. Send for a pad of them. Help to get the Truth about Single Tax before every California voter. If the people understand, we will win.

**TO help carry the TRUTH about Single Tax to every California voter count me in
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The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

AUGUST 2, 1919

No. 8

Land For Returned Soldiers

This article attracted attention to such an extent that we have decided to give it first place in this issue.

—Editor.

MANY persons when they think or talk about *land* think of it as being used for agricultural purposes only, so that in their mental vision land looms as farms, actual or potential, to such a degree that its thousand and one other uses receive almost no consideration. Particularly is this true of those interested in government reclamation projects and in the movement designed to secure land for returning soldiers.

The soldier returns to his native land only to find it monopolized by a home guard called landlords. A paternalistic government in the effort to secure the soldier employment after discharging him from its service, can think of no better plan than to buy from this home guard crowd certain sections of the soldier's native land and then sell it to him on easy terms. But the government has no money which it does not first take from the people. So, to carry out the plan aforesaid it proposes to tax each family \$25. It is true the money is not raised exactly in this way. An appropriation is made by Congress of \$500,000,000, but what's the difference? The plan goes through—a very large and expensive bureau sees to that—and a few (a very few) soldiers are "put back on the land." The home guard is highly pleased, for the action of the government increases the price which its members get for "their" land. The press, the pulpit, the politician and the public lecturer, the Chamber of Commerce and the Bankers' Association, all give the scheme their endorsement and sing its praises; the country resounds with tributes in its gratitude to "our heroes," and the bosom of the average citizen swells with pride as he thinks that he, even he, was instrumental in this glorious achievement.

Citizens, awake! Your government is being used by the land monopolists to deceive you. Land monopolists, with the active assistance of the financial and other privileged interests, including practically the entire newspaper press, are conducting a campaign to unload their worthless

land-holdings on the returning soldier, and they are doing this not so much because they are desirous of selling these holdings as they are of diverting public attention from themselves and their ownership of valuable oil lands, mineral lands, city lots and millions of acres of the most fertile land in the world.

It is an old game these landgrabbers are playing. Do not be hoodwinked by it. Stand with us in demanding the Single Tax and together we will test their sincerity for the returning soldier's welfare. For the Single Tax would, if adopted, put not only a few soldiers back on the land, but all of them, and along with them every other disinherited person. It can be put into effect, too, without any taxation or appropriation; without any action by a government bureau, and without any payment whatever for forestallers, landgrabbers, speculators and monopolists. Further, instead of buying from landlords and selling to soldiers tracts of land on which it is exceedingly difficult for anyone to make a living, the Single Tax would open up to use the very best land in the world—land on which it is easy for anyone to make a good living—on terms within the reach of all.

The campaign to open up the land of California to the people of California for their use and benefit is still on. We seek the aid and support of all intelligent men and women whether they are land speculators or not. We do this for the reason manifest to any unprejudiced investigator, that a single tax levied on land values would enormously increase the available land of the state, would in effect double the area of the state by choking off landowners who will neither use the land themselves nor permit others to do so; who play the dog in the manger and so prevent the employment of hundreds of thousands of workers and stop the supply of wealth which these workers would produce if the landlord did not stand between them and the source of all wealth.—G. R. S.

HOW TO BRING DOWN THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

One of the first results of freeing the land, would be the migration of city residents to the country. Cities then, instead of rising into the air, or burrowing into the earth would spread out over the country, thus relieving the congestion and unhealthfulness of these "wens on the face of civilization."

Under normal conditions more or less every family would become tillers of the soil and raise as much as they need. None would care for, or tolerate homes without plenty of fresh air, sunshine, with yards and gardens about the house. Nothing less constitutes a home! Every real farmer would till soil of his own choosing, the best, most productive, and convenient to markets. Meats, nuts, vegetables, fruits, and other products of the soil would not spoil, wither and decay in the hands of

dealers to be lost, or peddled out as they are now to those too poor to buy the fresh article.

Under-consumption and not over-production is the curse in every line of effort. Gold, silver, coal, gasoline, and everything that comes out of the earth in the shape of minerals would fall in price. Neither city, nor country could then afford to hold land out of use. Idle lands make idle hands. Busy hands create wealth, and men would laugh at the suggestion of poverty in a land like this were they not literally loaded down by taxes!

Indeed, the profoundest truth awaiting the general acceptance of mankind today, is, that land values are created by the presence of the people. Take these values for public purposes, and say never more any taxes for California, and the Kingdom of Heaven would be upon us. Then we need take no thought for the morrow, "saying what shall we eat? what shall we drink? nor, wherewithal shall we be clothed? for our heavenly Father knoweth that we have need of all these things." And yet we must work as well as pray. Work under normal conditions, each one doing the thing he likes, and not the thing he must, would be only play!

—Josie Thorpe Price.

CONFISCATION

By L. D. BECKWITH

In 1896 I bought a watch for \$15. Under the circumstances it was possible that the vendor might not be the rightful owner of that watch. I have carried that watch twenty-two years and it is my daily companion now.

Suppose a man should now appear and prove the watch to be his. I would be out my watch,—unless, and here is my point, unless he were to say to me: "It is true the watch is mine, but also true that I do not need to take it away. If you will pay me three cents a week, which would give me 10% on my investment, you may continue to carry it."

Would that be "confiscating" my watch? Would I be out my watch? Would I not still have it for a very fair rental? Would I be loser at all? True, the owner of the watch is loser to the extent of twenty-two years' rental, or \$22.40, but he has recovered that which was lost—and gets his rental from this on.

This very clearly illustrates the "confiscation" of land made so much of by the Anti-Single Taxers during the last campaign.

There is nothing to it! The farmer or home owner would still have his land—and have it for just what its use would be worth. He would not have to pay increased taxes every time he improved his place.

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As land is necessary to the exertion of labor in the production of wealth, to command the land which is necessary to labor, is to command all the fruits of labor save enough to enable labor to exist. This simple truth, in its application to social and political problems, is hid from the great masses of men partly by its very simplicity, and in greater part by widespread fallacies and erroneous habits of thought which lead them to look in every direction but the right one for an explanation of the evils which oppress and threaten the civilized world. And back of these elaborate fallacies and misleading theories is an active, energetic power, a power that in every country, be its political forms what they may, writes laws and molds thought—the power of a vast and dominant pecuniary interest.

—Henry George.

SAYS OLD JOHN JOLT:

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE

We're tired of six-bit bacon, and we're tired of six-bit ham,
We're tired of six-bit steer meat, and we're tired of six-bit lamb,
We're tired of ten-cent sugar, and we're tired of four-bit cheese,
And we're tired of ten-buck trousers which get baggy at the knees.
We're tired of grafting landlords, and their ever-soaring rent,
And we're tired of almost roasting in a shack or stuffy tent;
We're tired of empty purses, which are drained by night and day,
And we're tired of bill collectors and their terse demand to "pay."
Oh, we're tired of all abuses that arise from hogging land,
Of the tricks of realestaters, of their gall and nerve and sand;
And we're going to slam these fellows where the pullet got the axe,
And we're going to use the weapon known as George's Single Tax.

"UNUSED DEMOCRACY"

One of the best expositions of the Single Tax that has yet been produced has been written under the above title, by Harry H. Willock of Pittsburgh. It is published in small pamphlet form. The Great Adventure League is arranging to distribute a large number of this excellent publication.

We have begun to distribute our large supply of literature, including Progress and Poverty, Social Problems, A Perplexed Philosopher, The Life of Henry George, The Problem of the Unemployed, and many pamphlets.

If you do not know what the Single Tax is, read
"Progress and Poverty."

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Vol. 3

AUGUST 9, 1919

No. 9

Single Tax No Palliative

By Lona Ingham Robinson

NO one can deny that each one of us has an equal right with all others to the use of the earth which furnishes the raw material for all wealth. Our present land tenure system permits a few to monopolize all of the best pickings—agricultural and mineral lands, building sites, seaboard and railway terminals, and other natural opportunities. In time these are transmitted to “heirs and assignees forever.”

Once started, this vicious system widens the chasm between the owners of land and the workers on it with tremendous velocity. The harder and faster the producers toil, the smaller chance they have ever to gain a foothold on land for themselves. As Albert Jay Nock says, “The price of land goes up ahead of them.”

Some one calls the Single Tax a palliative. On the contrary every other line of reform but Single Tax is a palliative.

Churches, schools, co-operative industry, municipal service, parks, playgrounds, baths, hospitals, while we have our present system, but add to the value of land in their vicinity. Whatever makes land harder to get intensifies the conditions from which we now suffer.

Economic conditions have become so acute already that it is questioned whether anything short of violent revolution will satisfy those driven to despair. At present prices thousands in this city must be going hungry all the time.

If we can succeed in showing the peaceable, orderly and legal way of restoring the land to the people, we may destroy this vicious circle leading to ruin; then all these good reforms will for the first time become effective and the downfall of civilization be averted.

FOR USE, NOT SPECULATION

By Samuel Danziger.

Endeavoring to reassure American investors in Mexican lands General Candido Aguilar, Carranza's representative in Washington, denies that his government intends to confiscate the property of mineowners, declares that it is only trying to introduce a just tax system and explains further as follows:

"We feel that the great natural resources belong to the people, but we have no desire to and shall not disturb the private owner so long as he works the resources."

General Aguilar's explanation is cold comfort to the interests longing for speculative profits. What is undisturbed ownership of natural resources worth to such owners if it does not permit speculation? Similar interests in California and elsewhere in the United States have been offered similar assurances by Single Taxers without quieting effect upon their fears. How can it have when they have been figuring on owning without use? Ownership loses its attractiveness to them if it is to be deprived of its power to make the worker pay tribute to the idle owner. And this power depends on the ability of the landowner to hold undisturbed possession even while he forbids others from using land which he will not use himself. General Aguilar offers to the landlords the empty shell of ownership. He might as well have proclaimed abolition of private ownership of land since it can matter little to the user of land who may be the owner if his use allows him to remain in undisturbed possession. If General Aguilar would investigate the methods and arguments of the anti-Single Taxers of California he will realize that his statement must strengthen the fears of Mexico's monopolists.

THE ANSWER TO THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

By G. A. B.

The railway men have the right idea in their appeal to President Wilson to do something to reduce the cost of living. Mr. Wilson cannot do anything, of course, but it is good to throw the light of publicity upon the uselessness of high wages if they are accompanied by yet higher prices.

If Mr. Wilson really knows his political economy he can tell the railway men how prices may be reduced. All he has to do is to tell them, "Let George do it." For George, Henry George, in his *Progress and Poverty* has covered the whole situation.

He shows that the price at which anything sells must in the long run include all the expenses of producing it. Among these expenses is the interest on the selling value of the land used in production. Formerly good farming land could be had for ten dollars per acre or less. Now it ranges from two hundred dollars to many thousands of dollars per acre.

The selling price of anything raised on such land must be higher than in the good old days of cheap land.

The real answer to the high cost of living, as George shows, is to tax the site value of land and to abolish all other taxes. Such action will bring millions of acres of monopolized land into use; it will increase the supply of food-stuffs; it will lower the cost of production; and it will bring prices down to a point where common folks will have something left in their pay envelopes after supplying their bare necessities.

Cheap land means cheap prices and happier homes. But high priced land means that the cost of living will be high and poverty shall abound. The Single Tax will puncture the inflated balloon of monopoly prices. Talk for it. Work for it. It is the only way out.

WAGE SLAVERY PASSING AWAY

By Josie Thorpe Price.

"Conservatism wants a restoration of the world before the war. That world has passed away, never to return." Had the Civil war closed leaving chattel slaves in the hands of those who held paper-titles to them, every one knows the war would soon have been renewed. Chattel slavery was a beneficent institution compared to the wage slavery of today.

The fiat has gone forth! Wage slavery is in the process of dissolution. Man did not make his slaves, nor has any owner made his land. Every abstract or paper title to land can be traced back to, and rests on the sword. The fullness of time has come for swords to be beaten into plowshares. This is our hope, our prayer, our one desire above everything else! If you are tired of war, its waste, want and woe, then you'll gladly welcome the change. If you are not, then God help you and us, for this is an awful, a terrible time, such as the world has not known since the "morning stars sang together."

We are at the parting of the ways. The most fateful struggle of all history is on. "The struggle which must revivify or ruin." Reader, where do you stand, for the crookedness, the sorrows, the atrocities of the past, or the righteousness of the Kingdom of Heaven so long overdue on earth?

WE OUGHT TO WIN THIS TIME

By George Cartwright.

Sometimes the big vote of a campaign is gotten on just one phase of the issue up. I read Single Tax for ten years before Dave Gibson of Cleveland flashed in my face the fact that every rise in land values, pocketed by land owners, is an increasing debt each and every business must meet. If the man in business cannot sell his product or service to consumers at a price high enough to provide interest and sinking fund on the ground-rent debt the receiver gets him. The man who buys a farm at \$10,000 he formerly could have bought for \$5,000 must get

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higher prices for his product, double his production, or face mortgage foreclosure. The increased debt of the landless to the landed and inflation of prices to consumers because of land monopoly cutting down the production, with the shipping monopoly as an additional club to keep any extra production from reaching consumers, when shown up, by both present experience and propaganda, ought to put the amendment over this time.

"The theory that land is property subject to private ownership and control is the foundation of modern society, and is eminently worthy of the superstructure. Carried to its logical conclusion, it means that some have a legal right to prevent others from living; the others being mere trespassers. So that if the whole area of the earth becomes owned by Tom, Dick and Mary, then John, James and Jennie have no place to be born, or born as trespassers, to exist." —George Bernard Shaw.

ALL HELP AND WE SHALL WIN

By W. L. R.

California is the best place in which to work for a free earth because the Single Tax is in sight. Success is only a question of time, work and money. Without money we can do nothing. Our friends can help us in the following ways:—

1st.—Join the Great Adventure League of California. One Dollar pays for a year's membership and a year's subscription to "The Great Adventure Weekly."

2nd.—Get as many others to join as possible.

3rd.—Send us as large a contribution as you can, and let us know how much you will give per month until November, 1920.

4th.—Get your friends to do likewise.

5th.—Form a group of three, six, ten or twenty persons who will agree to give fifty cents, one dollar, five dollars or ten dollars a month. Collect it and send it regularly each month to The Great Adventure League, Room 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles, Cal.

Those who want to help should begin at once. Half our time and energy is used in raising the necessary funds to work with and then we never have enough. The unjust and haphazard distribution of wealth, taking from workers and giving to idlers makes it impossible for some to give who should like to do so. But let those who can give, give early and often. As Joseph Hagerty says, "Give till it hurts."

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Vol. 3

AUGUST 16, 1919

No. 10

The People of the State of California do Enact as follows:

A new section to be known as Section 15 is hereby added to Article XIII of the Constitution, to read as follows:

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1921, and thereafter, all public revenues, state, county, municipal and district, shall be raised by taxation of the value of land irrespective of improvements thereon; provided, that war veteran, college and church exemptions in Sections 1 $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1a, Article XIII of the Constitution, are not affected thereby; provided that this shall not prevent the State or its subdivisions from charging for services of public-owned utilities, but the earnings thereof shall be used only for operating expenses, the upkeep of the service, its extension, or the acquisition of other utilities.

The intent of this Single Tax amendment is to prevent the holding of land out of use for speculation and to apply the land values which the community creates to community purposes.

All constitutional provisions and laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

Adopted at an open meeting of Single Taxers in
Los Angeles, California, Tuesday, July 15, 1919.

ALLEGIANCE.

We hold these truths to be self evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.—Declaration of Independence.

PRINCIPLE

God has not put on man the task of making bricks without straw. With the need for labor and the power to labor He has also given to man the material for labor. This material is land. —Henry George.

AWAKENING

We contend that everywhere the prevailing systems of taxation by exploitation of the products of human labor, direct and indirect, are becoming more and more burdensome; that these intricate systems and devices operate to exact an unjust tribute from those who toil, penalize industry, create and foster private monopoly of natural resources, encourage speculation in the necessities of life and place a premium on dishonesty; that their continuance in force constitutes a barrier against the enjoyment of the fundamental rights of man, prevents the realization of the highest ideals of civilization, and should now be abolished.

Fixing our gaze, therefore, upon the rising star of economic justice which to all open minds pretends the recognition of the doctrine of human rights, as superior to property rights, we declare our adherence to the principle of the Single Tax upon the value of land as advocated by Henry George; our faith in its equity, our confidence in the beneficent results of its unlimited application; and hereby pledge our moral and financial support to all honorable endeavors to secure its immediate adoption.

To this end, believing in the righteousness of this cause, the undersigned hereby associate themselves together, and ordain the following:

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

The name of this association shall be

THE GREAT ADVENTURE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

ARTICLE II.—OBJECT.

The sole object of the League is to secure by lawful means the immediate enactment of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of California, providing for "*one Single Tax on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it;*" the repeal of all other forms of taxation, and the abolition of land monopoly in California.

"What we propose is not a tax on real estate, for real estate includes improvements. Nor is it a tax on land, for we would not tax all land, but only land having a value irrespective of its improvements, and would tax that in proportion to that value."

Such a law

"would impose no burden on industry, no check on commerce, no punishment on thrift; it would secure the largest production and the fairest distribution of wealth, by leaving men free to produce and exchange as they please, without any artificial enhancement of prices; and by taking for public purposes a value that cannot be carried off, that cannot be hidden, that of all values is most easily ascertained and cheaply collected, it would enormously lessen the number of officials, dispense with oaths, do away with temptations to bribery and evasion, and abolish man-made crimes in themselves innocent."—Henry George.

ARTICLE III.—MEMBERSHIP.

Any person who is in sympathy with the object of the League is eligible to membership, by signing the regular application blank, paying the annual dues for the current year in advance and receiving a copy of the Constitution.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the League shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a secretary and a treasurer.

Section 2. All officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those present at the meeting at which this Constitution is adopted and shall hold office until the next annual meeting. Thereafter all officers shall be elected by a majority vote of members present at the annual meeting, and shall continue in office one year or until their successors are elected.

ARTICLE V.—COMMITTEES

Section 1. An executive committee of nine members shall be appointed by the president who shall be chairman thereof, and who shall have power to remove members and fill vacancies.

Section 2. The executive committee may organize, direct and remove all county, district or other committees. It shall have general supervision of all literature distribution, and direct all campaign work.

Section 3. A finance or auditing committee of three members shall be appointed by the executive committee from among their own number, who shall have supervision of all disbursements of the funds of the League, subject to the approval of the executive committee.

ARTICLE VI.—MEETINGS

Section 1. The annual meeting shall be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in each year. Thirty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Special meetings may be called at any time by the president, and shall be called by him whenever demanded by a two-thirds vote of the executive committee.

Section 2. Regular meetings of the executive committee shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month. Special meetings of the committee may be called at any time by the president, as chairman. Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VII.—AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of members present. By-laws may be amended at any annual or special meeting by a majority vote of members present.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I.—DUES

The annual dues of each member shall be one dollar (\$1.00) payable in advance. No member shall be entitled to the privil-

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eges of the League whose dues for the current year have not been paid.

ARTICLE II.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers shall assume the duties of their respective offices when elected.

Section 2. The president shall have general supervision of the work of the League and perform all the duties usually connected with such office.

Section 3. The vice-presidents in their respective order shall perform the duties of the office in the absence or disability of the president.

Section 4. The secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the League in a book provided by the League for that purpose.

Section 5. The treasurer shall keep accurate accounts of all money received and disbursed. He shall pay out no money belonging to the League in amounts exceeding five dollars (\$5.00) except upon the order of the executive committee in regular or special session, or upon the approval in writing of the finance committee appointed by the executive committee.

Section 6. A thorough audit of the treasurer's books shall be made every six months by a reliable accountant, approved by the executive committee, and a financial statement of the League mailed to each member.

ARTICLE III.—PUBLICATIONS

Each member shall be entitled to receive the publications regularly issued by the League, and any other literature that it may distribute from time to time.

You now have a copy of the League's Constitution. Help us to end the high cost of living by signing this.

APPLICATION BLANK

To aid in achieving the object stated in The Great Adventure Constitution, herewith enclosed is one dollar in payment of my membership dues.

Name

Address

Precinct Number if you reside in California.....

36.05

G R

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AUG 26 1919

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

AUGUST 23, 1919

No. 11

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

The Golden Opportunity

By W. D. HOFFMAN

ONE must look in vain in history for times like these. There is economic and industrial upheaval everywhere, from chaotic central and northern Europe to great "democracies" like England and the United States. In outwardly peaceful nations there is the undercurrent of unrest and reconstruction that bodes ill for outworn systems of industrial slavery. Cabinets are falling abroad and politicians at home are bestirring themselves to avert a crisis in the high cost of living.

When the railroad brotherhoods serve warning that a raise in wages will not satisfy them so long as the cost of living mounts higher and higher, taking the increase faster than it is received, they touch at last a basis of fact that has been rare in labor petitions in the past. Bitter experience is driving home the truth to which many have been blind before.

But the remedy? The labor unions and the country see nothing but black night facing them. Congress and the administration see no way out of the woods but the appointment of commissions!

Here, then, is the great opportunity of the followers of Henry George. Now is the time to press upon the minds of the people everywhere the fundamental relation of the land and the man who works.

A currency hugely inflated by war bonds, while explaining the cheapening of the American dollar and its decreasing purchasing power, does not explain the failure of wages to rise to the equivalent of the depreciation.

This is our task. We must emphasize that the countless monopolies that are strangling the people are all children of the parent monopoly—earth monopoly. Trusts of all kinds have their roots in the soil. Petty

combines feed on the general misery of underpaid workmen competing against one another for jobs. The sign "No Traspass" has been posted on every corner of the earth's surface and he who works at all must do so on the terms of the landlord. It is the restricted labor market, in which the competition is keen for jobs, that keeps wages from rising to their natural level—the equivalent of the product.

Just as wages are kept down by land monopoly on the one hand, prices are kept up on the other and they continue to go higher and higher at the will of trusts and combines. Prices normally should be determined by the relative quantity of supplies. But where only a fraction of productive land is used, in the country or in the city, there is a chronic scarcity of goods. To add to this unnatural phenomenon our whole expense of government is assessed on labor products. The wooden table is taxed a dozen times—from timber to finished product—before it reaches the user. All these penalties are added to the price.

Let us strive to open the earth! Then will there be plenty for all and wages to exchange for everything we need. Where the land is free, there man is free. He will work for no one for less than nature yields him for his day's labor.

While cabinets and congresses are vainly striving to placate the people over the wage and living problem, let every follower of Henry George put his shoulder to the wheel and deluge the state of California with the good news, in the form of literature and subscriptions to *The Great Adventure*. Help swell the campaign fund—and let's put it over big with a Single Tax vote that will wake up the nation!

LAND AND OUR SOLDIERS

By W. L. R.

Professor Walter E. Packard, assistant state leader of farm advisers of Berkeley, said that the curse of idle acres will not be removed by ruinous taxation, imperialistic grabbing of private property and socialistic division of it among land hungry people. He praised Secretary Lane's plan for selling land to the soldiers on easy payments.

Our soldiers gave up their jobs, risked their lives, many were crippled and many were killed fighting for what is called their country; yet how many of the soldiers own any of their country? Why should the soldier buy land? Is not a piece of land only a piece of the country he fought to save—or did he risk his life, get crippled or killed for a country owned by profiteers and land sharks?

The ruinous taxation the professor refers to, will be ruinous to the small percentage who are willing to do anything for our soldiers and the rest of the people but get off their backs. The present taxation is not ruinous to land monopolists but it is to everybody else. Land values

should be taxed so high that those who hog the land would have to plant, build, or quit. We will never get cheap food from dear land. A heavy tax on land values means cheap land. Complete Single Tax means free land, plenty of work and plenty of money for those who do the work. It means less for those who live on the work of others.

THE MORAL PURPORT OF THE SINGLE TAX

We reprint the following from the pamphlet under the above title by Dr. Solomon Solis Cohen:

Current teachings regard present inequalities of social conditions, with attendant warring of classes, oppression of the weak by the strong, and hatred of the poor for the rich, as inevitable. But we who hold to the doctrine of equal opportunity believe that the largest part of the misery and crime that the world suffers today is the result of a removable cause; and we seek to remove that cause. The cause is the conversion of the bounties of nature, the provision made by a kind Father for all his children, to the benefit of a few; and it can be removed by freeing the land from tribute, by means of the Single Tax.

It is the tribute extorted from both capital and labor by private land ownership that gives rise to business depression, to strikes and lockouts. It is this tribute that makes slaves of the bulk of the landless, and afflicts them with all the vices and meannesses of slavery. It is this tribute that causes the gross inequalities in men's opportunities to develop their lives and powers, and thus gives rise to that envious hatred and discontent, that blind resentment against an injustice felt but not understood, which has more than once, even in America, been manifested by violence—and that may, one day, overturn society.

Under the Single Tax, with its virtual abolition of private land-owning, the worst of these inequalities would be removed. "Human nature would not be suddenly changed," it is true, but the environment would become more favorable for the evolution of its best qualities; for the progressive change that prophets have foretold and heroes and martyrs have foreshadowed.

AN ARDENT WORKER IN THE CAUSE

One of our most zealous workers for economic freedom is Mrs. Josie Thorpe-Price, who came here in November last from New York City. She has been a Croasdale Single Taxer since reading "Progress and Poverty" in 1886. Originally from Louisiana, she has been a constant traveler since the death of her husband in 1912, and everywhere in her wanderings the one object of her life has been to lead men out of the economic darkness of today up into the newer freedom as taught by Henry George. When visiting in Los Angeles in 1915, she joined the Great Adventure, and from the other side of the continent took

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an active interest in the two campaigns here. Last September, while in New York City she decided to return south by way of Louisiana and cast her lot personally with us here. She knew Luke North, and esteemed him next to Henry George as an idealist, worker, and man of sublime moral courage.

JABS FROM OLD JOHN JOLT

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE

When packers raised the price of ham, and I could not afford to buy,
I did not wail, or fret, or weep, or even stop to bat an eye;
I merely switched to rice and peas, to garden sass and lima beans,
Or ate my fill of luscious fruit and salads made of turnip greens.
And even when they boosted steak, and bacon cost six-bits a pound,
I threw no fit of discontent, nor made one single woeful sound;
I simply lived on other things, on sweet potatoes, pie and soup,
And told the corner butcher man I did not care a tinker's whoop.
But when the packers cornered beans, and bought up all the rice in sight,
And figured how they could control the price of onions over night;
When they began to purchase spuds, and lettuce, spinach, beets and corn,
I realized they had me foul, each time they blew the dinner horn.
But every road must have a turn, and profiteers have got to go,
Or soon they'll have us eating grass, and filled with twenty kinds of woe;
And I am sure that all we need, that all our present system lacks,
Is just sufficient votes, by George, to swing the state for Single Tax.

We have had in our American farmer, owning his own acres, using his own capital, and working with his own hands, something far better than peasant proprietorship. We have had, what no legislation can give the people of Great Britain, vast areas of virgin soil. We have had all these under democratic institutions. Yet we have here social disease of precisely the same kind as that which exists in Ireland and England. And the reason is that we have had here precisely the same cause—that we have made land private property. So long as this exists, our democratic institutions are vain, our pretense of equality but cruel irony, our public schools can but sow the seeds of discontent. So long as this exists, material progress can but force the masses of our people into a harder and more hopeless slavery. Until we in some way make the land, what Nature intended it to be, common property; until we in some way secure to every child born among us his natural birthright, we have not established the Republic in any sense worthy of the name, and we cannot establish the Republic. Its foundations are quicksand.—Henry George.

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The Great Adventure

SEP 6 1919

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Vol. 3

AUGUST 30, 1919

No. 12

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Demand Democracy, Not Drain Swamps

By HARRY H. WILLOCK, in his pamphlet *Unused Democracy*



HE many schemes to drain the swamps and irrigate the deserts are so futile, such poor business and so utterly inadequate that the wonder is why so many people are deceived by them. Thousands of acres might be reclaimed but what would be the use when millions of acres, much of which is immediately adjacent to our great centers of population, are ready for immediate occupancy, furnishing abundant labor for all possible demands now and for years to come.

When we become democratic enough to demand that the State take all the community created rental value of land, to pay the expenses of the State, no one will desire, or could be compelled, to own more land than he can use productively any more than one would now rent an office or a dwelling or a factory and permit it to remain vacant or unused. Not a third of the usable area of America and not half the area of our cities is in any adequate use. When all the rental value of land is demanded by the State, the great portion of unused

MASS MEETING

To Celebrate the Birthday of Henry George
Blanchard Hall, Tuesday Sept. 2, 7:45 p.m.

Prominent Speakers.

Public Invited.

land will pass from private to public ownership and therefore immediately become a national asset instead of a national liability, as it now is. Such land in the public hands would be held for the private possession of the individual who desired to put it to use, paying to the State therefor only the annual rental value but no purchase price. Vacant unused land therefore would be available to homesteaders for residence and business purposes even in our cities, while thousands of acres adjacent to our large centers of population, would be accessible for agricultural purposes. All taxes on business enterprise will be unnecessary, taxes on homes and farms will be greatly reduced and all business activity permanently stimulated. The State can take the rental value of land by taxing it seven per cent or eight per cent, instead of about two per cent as at present. This would take all capital value out of land and later tax rates would be on a per acre or per square foot basis. It is not so difficult to assess land on a rental value basis as on a selling value basis as at present.

America then could support in plenty, and entirely beyond the shadow of involuntary poverty, a population of a billion people, without any fear of losing the great stabilizer—free land. Thousands of men in industry would go on the land with their women and children, many of whom are now doing industrial work; this would lessen the labor pressure and give better wages to those who remain in industry. At the same time it would form a great reservoir of reserve labor for seasonal occupation, or to fill in during periods of tremendous industrial activity when wages sufficiently attractive could be offered to draw people away temporarily from the work on their own land. Jobs would be permanently plentiful, and workers, as long as free land remained, would be permanently scarce with resulting high wages and steady employment for workers and good business with good profits for employers in supplying the increased demands of a people with a much greater per capita buying power than at present.

Under such conditions the union wage (now a very real necessity to insure an approach to fair payment to the worker notwithstanding its restricting effect on production) would largely fall of its own weight. The hustling efficient worker would be able to earn more than the union wage if working on the land for himself and could therefore demand a higher wage from industry, while the slacker inefficient worker could not make so much on the land and would not be in position to demand an unfair wage from industry. All, however, would be able to demand wages in proportion to what they produced, which would be perfect equity and on the whole a great stimulation to production. With all vacant land free to homestead without purchase price and all taxes abolished on improvements, the success of the "Own your home" campaign would be assured, while at present it is largely nothing but a dream for the great mass of Americans, sixty per

cent of whom are now tenants facing a steadily increasing rent, which will continue with increasing land values. Cheaper homes and lower rents are but idle fancies under present conditions.

FIGS FOR TAXES

A Fable, by John W. Dix.

Once upon a time there was a little kingdom in which the principal industry was growing figs. The King needed more revenue; so he issued a proclamation, levying against each fig tree a tax of one piece of silver. The growers of the fig trees looked for a way to escape the tax. Soon hatchets were laid at the roots of the trees, and the industry was a thing of the past.

Across the bay lay another little kingdom whose industry was also the growing of figs. This King also needed revenue; so he issued a proclamation levying a tax of one piece of silver against each block of land. The people tried to avoid the tax, but they could not do away with the land. So to raise the tax they planted more fig trees; and the industry thrived, and the people grew rich, so that the people from the first kingdom crossed the bay to the second kingdom where industry was encouraged. And its fame went to all the countries roundabout.

We would be pleased to supply anyone with the above fable printed in circular form, and also "Single Tax, What It Is and Why We Urge It," an address by Henry George.



SAYS OLD
JOHN JOLT

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE.

Hank Smith has built a bungalow upon a little lot, And what that little home contains is all that Hank has got; He works to make it beautiful, and toils for weary hours, To cultivate his garden patch and irrigate the flowers. And every year they bleed him, some thirty bucks or so (as tax to meet the city's needs), the while his posies grow; they tax his picket fences, and they tax his little shed, and they grab some tax for garden tools, and tax his humble bed. But J. V. Ogden Armour, who has gobs and gobs of cash, and owns three hundred lots or more, that harbor weeds and trash, gets off with just a fraction that Hank Smith has got to pay, and he 'lows that all is lovely as he motors on his way. But Old Hank keeps up a thinkin', as he wields the hoe and ax, and he finds he has a remedy in good old Single Tax; next year he's going to fix it so that Armour pays his share, so he'll never pass the buck to him, because his lots are bare.

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SANTA BARBARA MEETING NOTICE

A short time ago, Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, vice-president of The Great Adventure League, on visiting the city of Santa Barbara was asked to arrange for Mr. W. L. Ross, our chairman, to go there and deliver an address on the present high cost of living which is distressing most of us.

Mr. Ross, who is a very able and convincing speaker, will take the time off from his busy desk to talk to and get acquainted with our Single Tax friends of Santa Barbara, in the hope also that others will be present, not Single Taxers, who will benefit by hearing a good "straight from the shoulder" Single Tax talk. His subject will be "Why This High Cost of Living?"

Mr. Ross has a third object in making this trip just now. It is his desire to effect a county organization center in this city.

The meeting will be open to the public and will be held at Recreation Center, Thursday, August 28th, at 8 o'clock.

ALL TOGETHER—NOW!

Every one now-a-days is awake to the fact that something must be done to abate industrial unrest, and to reduce the cost of living.

Do you realize that The Great Adventure League amendment is the only definite, concrete proposal before the people that is fundamental, effective and attainable? Do you also realize what a mass of detail work is involved in getting this amendment on the ballot—in campaigning for it, and in organizing the publicity it must have?

All this work takes money, and lots of it. Are you doing your bit financially to help free the earth? Contributions and pledges for monthly contributions should be sent us at once.

Please do not view such action as a duty. It is not. It is an opportunity and should be a most welcome one.

Send your pledge today, and thus help the cause of our common humanity.

For the immediate adoption of the complete Single Tax, count me in for \$....., enclosed herewith; also for \$..... monthly until the State Election, November 5th, 1920.

Name.....

Address.....

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SEP 13 1919

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

SEPTEMBER 13, 1919

No. 13

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

FREE LAND FOR THE LAND MONOPOLISTS

SOUTHERN PACIFIC WINS MILLIONS IN OIL
LANDS.

GOVERNMENT PLEA FOR VOIDING OF THE
PATENTS TO VAST AREA IS DENIED
AFTER YEARS OF LITIGATION.

Right of the Southern Pacific Railway Company to nearly 200,000 acres of the richest oil lands in California and of other defendants to opulent areas, the whole worth some \$500,000,000, is confirmed in an epoch-making opinion delivered yesterday by Federal Judge Bledsoe. The bill of the United States against the railroad company and others, put forward in an attempt to void patents to the oil lands on the ground of fraud, was ordered dismissed.—*L. A. Times, Aug. 29 1919.*

— UPON THIS LAND — VALUED AT \$500,000,000
— A GIFT FROM THE PEOPLE — THIS CORPORATION
PAYS NO TAXES, BUT COLLECTS THEM
FROM THE PRODUCTS OF LABOR, AND THEN

ISSUES STOCKS AND BONDS UPON WHAT IT COLLECTS.

Are you willing to contribute a little toward our campaign to put a stop to this system of robbery?

THE PRESENT CRISIS

THERE are thousands of men and women in this country who know the cause of the high cost of living. The newspapers know it—many of them—but they dare not tell. The cause was made clear forty years ago. The wrong that causes poverty is the wrong that causes the high cost of living. That wrong is the private ownership of land.

When land was cheap in this country food was cheap, but now that it has become dear everything that comes from land is dear. How could it be otherwise? In 1900 the farming land of the United States had a value of thirteen billion dollars. In 1910 the value was over twenty-eight billion dollars. Yet less than five per cent more farm land was brought into use.

Since 1910 the increase in farm land, mining land, and oil and timber lands, has been even greater than in the previous ten years. How can we expect prices to fall with land so dear that it does not pay men to use it even at the present high prices of farm products? Not more than one-fourth of the agricultural land of the country is in use. Yet thousands of school children are starved—are underfed in this "land of the free and home of the brave."

Our great republic is in danger—the greatest danger it has ever had to face. It has reached the point where it must either establish justice or go back to barbarism. Yet our so-called statesmen, our political hucksters in Washington and in our state capitals, have nothing to offer worth five minutes' consideration.

The people must clean house. They must take their government and run it. It is their only hope. After they do this will they work out their own salvation? We believe they will. But it can only be done by doing away with taxes and using the ground rent for public purposes which now goes into private pockets. To do this would free the land. It would establish the equal right of all to the use of the earth.

W. L. R.

"The Crime of Poverty" by Henry George, tells Single Tax and the great need for it. We have this reprinted by Luke North in Everyman for ten cents apiece.

OUR DESTRUCTIVE TAX SYSTEM

There are on this earth but two sources from which to collect revenues or funds for public purposes. The one is a tax on labor, the other is a tax on land. A tax on labor, or labor values of any kind is destructive.

A tax on land or land values of any kind is constructive. The first tax or the one which we use mostly is destructive, for the reason that it restricts, limits and destroys both labor and capital.

The second of which we make but little use is highly constructive, because it gives encouragement to labor for useful effort of every kind, and tends to make land plentiful and easy of access, so that all workers can occupy themselves without let or hindrance. Change our system of taxation from labor values to land values, and almost immediately the high cost of living would collapse like a soap bubble.

—Josie Thorpe Price.



By HARVEY E. WESTGATE

Two years ago the toilers said: "They've gone and raised the price of bread;

We now pay more for shoes and socks, and hats and caps and eight-day clocks;

So we must have a raise in pay, or live on raw alfalfa hay."

Of course employers pawed the air, and fumed and swore and tore their hair,

But raised the pay a paltry dime and swore the hold-up was a crime;
Then straightway boosted every price, from ham and eggs to beans and rice.

So once again the toilers spoke, as they beheld the crafty "joke":
"You raised our stipend ten per cent, but doubled up the cost of rent;
And as the cost of foodstuffs soar, we're much worse off than e'er before."

So after while (they took their time), they gave the men another dime,
But almost over night, b'jing, the profiteers got in the ring,
And boosted prices to the sky and made the weary toilers sigh,
But now at last they see the trick, each Tom and Harry, Bill and Dick,
And as this message comes to hand, they fall in line to beat the band;
For though, 'til now, they have been lax, today they savvy Single Tax.

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COMMENT FROM A WELL-KNOWN SINGLE TAXER

Editors "The Great Adventure":

Some of your recent articles seem to do two things that are needed: First to show the people that Single Tax will secure to themselves and others the justice that they desire; and second, to show how it will secure this.

(Signed) JOSEPH RHOADES.

SONGS OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unrelenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. They breathe the spirit of everlasting revolt. "Give Labor the Vision," pleads the poet in perhaps the most significant appeal to the hosts of workers that our Western movement has produced—epic in style. There is trust in humanity breathed into the Songs, a faith in the victory of The People that sustained Luke North during the years when he turned the currents of his poet-soul into the difficult work of making this a fit world for the development of poets—a world which will make poets of us all.

This book may be purchased thru The Great Adventure League, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles; cloth binding \$1.50; paper, \$1.00 each; in quantities, three of the clothbound for \$4.00 or three of the paper bound for \$2.50. We will ship these anywhere at this price express prepaid. Those who knew and loved Luke should have the volume for the treasuring of memories of the cause; those who knew him not should have the Songs for the sake of the world of inspiration and beauty they will unfold.

DAVID BOBSPA.

I propose to beg no question, to shrink from no conclusion, but to follow truth wherever it may lead. Upon us is the responsibility of seeking the law, for in the very heart of our civilization today women faint and little children moan. But what that law may prove to be is not our affair. If the conclusions that we reach run counter to our prejudices, let us not flinch; if they challenge institutions that have long been deemed wise and natural, let us not turn back.

—Henry George.

Intolerance could not exist apart from bigotry any more than poverty apart from privilege. Both are effects and symptoms disclosing their source to those who have eyes to see, or ears to hear.

G. A. B.

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Vol. 3

SEPTEMBER 20, 1919

No. 14

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

California Single Taxers United

WITH banners flying and the dove of peace perched high upon the standard borne aloft at the head of a solid front the Single Taxers of California have proved equal to the task of united action. Co-operation takes the place of antagonism.

An Amendment providing for the immediate adoption of the Complete Single Tax has been formulated and approved by the best lawyers obtainable. It is framed so that if it becomes a law a large measure of the Single Tax will go into effect a year earlier than would have been the case with the amendment it takes the place of. Two years later, or in other words, one year later than the former amendment would have become operative all but a small fraction of the revenue will be raised from land values.

One year later, or in 1924, the repeal of the corporation tax which includes the franchise tax is provided for, resulting in complete Single Tax.

This is the method favored by Henry George. It insures an orderly change, preventing the confusion which might arise in changing the system of accounts and making other needed changes without sufficient time to make them in.

The only objection made to the exemption method was that provision was not always made for shifting to land values an amount equal to that of the exemptions. That objection has been fully met. Judge Ryckman says from a legal point of view the new amendment is "hog tight, bull strong, and horse high."

The Great Adventure League, The Los Angeles Single Tax League, the leaders in San Diego, San Francisco and other places who have been reached thus far are for the new amendment. It is safe to say at this writing that the great majority of California Single Taxers favor

the measure. It combines the zeal of the propagandist with the skill necessary for political action.

THE NEW AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, since 1879, Section 2 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of California has declared that:

"The holding of large tracts of land, uncultivated and unimproved, by individuals or corporations, is against the public interest, and should be discouraged by all means not inconsistent with the rights of private property," and

WHEREAS, the value attaching to land is created by the people and of right belongs to the people, and should be taken in taxes by the community as needed for public purposes,

THEREFORE, to accomplish that end the people of the State of California do enact as follows:

Article XIII of the Constitution of the State of California is hereby amended by adding to it a new section which shall be numbered Section 15, and shall read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 15. On and after the first day of January, 1921, the following classes of property shall be exempt from taxation:

All machinery, implements, tools, shipping, manufactured articles, merchandise, moneys, credits, stocks, bonds, motor vehicles and other vehicles, furniture and all other personal property; also planted trees, vines, and crops. Provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the taxation now in effect of privately-owned public utilities for the use of the public highways.

As such exemptions become effective, improvements in, on or over land shall be assessed on the same basis of valuation and rate as that of the preceding year, and all other revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1923, all improvements in, on, under, through or over land shall be exempt from taxation.

As such exemptions become effective all revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1924, Section 14 of Article XIII of this Constitution (providing a system of State revenue) shall become in-operative, and all public revenues shall be raised by taxation on the value of land exclusive of improvements thereon or therein.

And the general assembly is hereby authorized and directed to enact appropriate laws for the apportionment and collection and payment to the State of revenues for state purposes.

Nothing in this Section shall delay or prevent the collection of taxes

levied before any respective exemption herein described becomes effective.

And provided further, that war-veteran, church and college exemptions are not effected by this Section.

And provided also, that charges for and revenues from publicly-owned public utilities shall not be affected hereby.

All Constitutional provisions and laws of the State of California in conflict with this Section, or any part of it, are hereby repealed.

Amendments are not printed on the ballot. Only the titles defining them are printed. The proposed amendments are printed in pamphlet form with arguments for and against them. They are printed at public expense and sent to every voter before election day.

That is the reason the preamble was written to the new measure.

Under these circumstances the detailed statements in the new amendment with the preamble should have a splendid educational effect on the voters. Being more explicit, it will secure thousands of votes that would not be reached by a more abbreviated amendment. Without a campaign fund much larger than ever we have had before this is the only way the majority of the voters can be reached effectively.

With a sufficient campaign fund in these days of unrest this amendment can be carried. If it wins land values will fall at once. Speculators will immediately begin to unload or begin to use the land. Moreover, it leaves the door open for the people to take the full ground rent as soon as they see fit to spend it for public purposes. When this is done California shall have the private possession of land combined with the Justice of its common ownership.

W. L. R.

TEN PER CENT HOLD MOST OF LAND VALUE

By LUKE NORTH, in *The Great Adventure*, Aug. 31, 1918.

Single Tax is not on land, but on land value. It will not burden those who use land, but only those who collect rent from the Users, and the land monopolists and speculators. The land value of California is now held by less than ten per cent of the people, of whom many are non-residents. The burden of Single Tax will fall on them, and reduce their incomes considerably, until the value becomes distributed among all the people, when it will fall on no one very heavily—all the good land being in use, the smallest amount of tax from each user, in proportion to the value of his holding, will give an ample fund for public expenses—much larger than is now extorted indirectly from the comparatively few land users and the many workers and home renters.

SONGS OF THE GREAT ADVENTURE

"Songs of The Great Adventure" embody the soul of the cause to which Luke North dedicated his life. He was essentially the poet, the lover of beauty; at the same time he was the propagandist—the unre-

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

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lenting and unwavering fighter for human rights. They breathe the spirit of everlasting revolt. "Give Labor the Vision," pleads the poet in perhaps the most significant appeal to the hosts of workers that our Western movement has produced—epic in style. There is trust in humanity breathed into the Songs, a faith in the victory of The People that sustained Luke North during the years when he turned the currents of his poet-soul into the difficult work of making this a fit world for the development of poets—a world which will make poets of us all.

This book may be purchased thru The Great Adventure League, 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles; cloth binding \$1.50; paper, \$1.00 each; in quantities, three of the clothbound for \$4.00 or three of the paper bound for \$2.50. We will ship these anywhere at this price express prepaid. Those who knew and loved Luke should have the volume for the treasuring of memories of the cause; those who knew him not should have the Songs for the sake of the world of inspiration and beauty they will unfold.

DAVID BOBSPA.

ALL TOGETHER—NOW!

Every one now-a-days is awake to the fact that something must be done to abate industrial unrest, and to reduce the cost of living.

Do you realize that The Great Adventure League amendment is the only definite, concrete proposal before the people that is fundamental, effective and attainable? Do you also realize what a mass of detail work is involved in getting this amendment on the ballot—in campaigning for it, and in organizing the publicity it must have?

All this work takes money, and lots of it. Are you doing your bit financially to help free the earth? Contributions and pledges for monthly contributions should be sent us at once.

Please do not view such action as a duty. It is not. It is an opportunity and should be a most welcome one.

Send your pledge today, and thus help the cause of our common humanity.

For the immediate adoption of the complete Single Tax, count me in for \$....., enclosed herewith; also for \$..... monthly until the State Election, November 5th, 1920.

Name.....

Address.....

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OCT 4 1919

The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

SEPTEMBER 27, 1919

No. 15

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
 ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Only One Solution

By W. D. HOFFMAN



OMEONE has said that if we had the kingdom of heaven on earth tomorrow the entire benefits would be reaped by the landlords who, owning the earth, would raise rents accordingly.

Tom L. Johnson found that his three-cent car fares did not benefit the people as he expected they would. Rents merely jumped all along the car line routes to make up the extra two cents saved in transportation.

If Los Angeles and San Francisco established free gas, light, water and street car service the people would not benefit a penny's worth. Landlords would charge more for living in those cities, exactly in proportion as the people flocked in to get the "benefits."

So long as earth owners remain privileged to appropriate community benefits, all other reforms of an economic nature defeat their purpose. So-called profit-sharing is no exception. On the authority of Henry Ford's sociological department, Boyd Fisher, of the Executives' Club of Detroit, has made this statement:

Within one week of the announcement of the Ford profit-sharing plan, the value of real estate in Detroit jumped \$50,000,000 or the value of the expected distribution for five years. The main result of the Ford \$5.00 a day plan, is that living expenses have so increased in Detroit that the workingman receiving 5.00 a day, finds that he cannot live as well as he could before the introduction of profit-sharing on \$3.00 a day.

In other words, Detroit's land monopolists are depriving Ford's workers of what he aimed to give them when he increased wages. When an employer raises wages, land owners can take from the workers all the increase.

This explains why the railroad men and other workers throughout

the country face a crisis in the inability to keep pace with rising living costs.

The earth owner is the giant tribute-taker who exacts all the traffic will bear. He will continue to do so until he is dislodged. In fact, all society is competing to pay the tribute, because we permit the few to own the planet on which all must live.

Now is the time to make the land common property. This can be done equably by confiscation of land values for society.

THE LESSON OF CROP RENT

By L. D. BECKWITH

When crop rent is 15 per cent, there is left of every dollar produced upon the land 85 per cent for Labor and Capital.

When more *PEOPLE* arrive or the people already present *BEHAVE THEMSELVES BETTER* land goes up, carrying rent up with it, and crop rent becomes, say, 25 per cent. There is then left for the farmer, his family, for the equipment he needs in his business and for his hired help but 75 cents out of each dollar he produces.

If, by giving up to the community time taken from his sleep, money taken from his vacation fund, and by devoting his car, tires, gas, and energy to the public good, he promotes the organization of a good school, of lecture courses, of social clubs, agricultural fairs, etc., and makes his part of the county a more desirable place for residence—then land goes up (again carrying rent with it) and crop rent goes, say, to 40 per cent as on some of the bean land near here. There is then but 60 cents left for Labor and Capital out of every dollar produced.

Bear in mind that Labor and Capital produce all that is produced. Rent is merely the draft of the leech on the other two. Interest has to be earned. Wages have to be earned. Rent is the only portion that is gotten for nothing.

LAND GAMBLING—THE UPAS TREE SHADOW TODAY.

By JOSIE THORPE PRICE.

It more than anything else brought on this world war. It more than anything else stands in the way of a peaceful settlement today. It has destroyed all the great nations of the past, and hangs like the sword of Democles over us even yet. Land gamblers have filled the world with misery and crime, and then hung, drawn and quartered, burnt at the stake, and exiled those who opposed them.

Until recently they have been able to appease the oppressed and down-trodden workers, with the promise of a home in heaven, and all other good things denied them here.

Jesus of Nazareth, an innocent man, who during his entire sojourn here, fought this great injustice, was crucified because he gave utter-

ance to such expressions as these, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the son of man hath not where to lay his head!" "In my father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I should have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also." He promised a heaven here, a time when swords should be beaten into plow shares, and spears into pruning hooks, when each man should sit under his own vine and fig tree, with none to molest or make him afraid. For this he was executed.

No pen can portray a thousandth part of the atrocities that have been perpetrated down the ages as a result of this monstrous wrong. You have often heard people say that all life is more or less a gamble. Yes, Yes, Yes,

Life is a gamble and must ever be,
'Til the source of all life, the land, is made free!

GREAT ADVENTURE MAIL BAG

A FEW LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT:

University of California, Berkeley.

Dear Great Adventurers:

We think the bill is excellent and that it will carry, therefore we are not worried that our affirmative vote gets to you late.

Prof. and Mrs. ARTHUR G. BRODEUR.

Winters, California.

Dear Single Taxers:

The enclosed draft of the measure certainly covers the field and answers all the objections raised by the Single Taxers (?) who opposed the former measures.

(Signed) Ben Putnam.

L. D. Beckwith, Editor of the Atascadero News, who did fine work for the Single Tax during the last campaign, writes the following:

Atascadero, Cal.

Editors The Great Adventure.

Dear Fellow Workers:

Positively the best news of all the long struggle! Certainly I am with it, for it, and in it!

The news reaches me also through the State League, which will help those not on both mailing lists to understand that both organizations are backing the new bill.

I am well pleased with the bill, as well as pleased that the much-desired unity of action is now assured.

Single Taxers have the one scientific, simple proposal. They, of all

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people ought to be able to work together.

Count on me for articles, for speeches any place within reach, and I will also get under the financial load as much as I am able.

I have already begun organizing for another advertising campaign in the county papers here.

(Signed) L. D. BECKWITH.

LOCAL NEWS

THE RENT PAYERS PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

Everybody in Los Angeles who knows the importance of the land question ought to join the Rent Payers Protective Association. The scarcity of houses caused by the war has made the demand greater than the supply. This scarcity has given an opportunity to landlords to take advantage and charge excessive rents. In many cases landlords are reasonable in their advances, but in other cases gross profiteering has been practiced.

Los Angeles has the vacant lot disease. What we want is more houses. The way to get them is to make it profitable to build them. The way to do that is to make vacant lots cheap and building material cheap. Then why not stop taxing buildings and make land cheap by taxing it into use? Why not reduce the cost of building material and the high cost of living in general by forcing the Southern Pacific, The Kern County Land Company, the Miller and Lux estate and other forestallers and hoarders of the people's source of supply to disgorge? Why not make them drop their loot by removing taxes from homes and all other labor products? Why not socialize the land by adopting the Single Tax?

This is the lesson the rent payers will have to learn. If they do not learn this lesson—if they do not study the land question their efforts will be in vain.

A sufficient number of men and women in Los Angeles know the remedy for landlord profiteering to guide the efforts of those who are crying for relief. Awake! Single Tax men and women! Join the Rent Payers Protective Association and lead the way. You have the remedy.

—W. L. R.

William L. Ross and J. H. McEldowney spoke before the rent-payers mass meeting in this city. They were warmly received and were made members of the committee on organization.

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Vol. 3

OCTOBER 4, 1919

No. 16

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

The Only Remedy

"The toad beneath the harrow knows
Where every tooth-point goes—
The butterfly along the road
Preaches contentment to that toad."

GHERE is but one remedy when the prices of the necessities and comforts of life increase, and that remedy is to increase wages proportionately. Wages is wealth received in return for human exertion, and lest you may be doubtful as to the source of wages we assure you that they are produced by the laborer or wage-earner. For example, the fisherman's wages is the fish he catches. If on coming to land he finds the grocer, the tailor and the shoemaker demanding two fish for their commodities where heretofore they asked but one, our fisherman must produce (catch) hereafter twice as many fish or demand twice the price for his fish that he did before.

But this does not change the relation of these workers one to the other. They simply exchange their products on the basis of a different quantity or a different valuation. Neither do they rob each other. None is poorer because of the change, for each one gets an equivalent for what he gives, and indeed where no outside interference takes place whereby they are hindered in the production of wealth, the more they produce and exchange the wealthier all become. But one day the grocer, the tailor and the shoemaker are visited by a man who claims he owns the land on which they work, as well as that on which the fisherman must beach his boat. All of these men being good citizens of the United States, where private property in land is recognized as an institution having equal sanction with divine law, they admit the validity of the landowner's claim and ask him on what terms he will consent to the use of "his" land. "My terms," answered the land-owner "are all that the traffic will bear. Keep enough of your product to maintain yourselves in working condition and I will take the rest. Further, I demand that you work harder and longer and so increase

production, also that you treat me with proper respect and silence all agitators who question my authority or criticise my acts." "Your terms are hard," replied the workers. "They are the conditions of slavery. You leave us but a bare living." The landowner however showed no interest in his tenants' reply and dismissed them with the brief command: "Accept my terms or get off of my land." And these terms he dictated to every other worker.

Workers of California, whatever your occupation may be, you are in the same condition as the workers we have been describing. As a worker, as a wage-earner, as a salaried person you are paying tribute to the land-owners—owners of town and city sites, owners of coal, oil, mineral and water resources, owners of agricultural tracts, river and harbor fronts. The more you earn the more they take. They are leeches preying on the body of the public, but unlike leeches their appetites are never satisfied. They do not fall off when full. The more they absorb the greater their power of absorption. No reform, no change that stops short of their removal is of any avail in permanently improving your condition. The only remedy is to do away with their power to take your wages. The Single Tax will do this. The Single Tax will leave you all that you earn. It will do more. It will give you unlimited opportunities to earn all the wealth that you care to possess. Further than this, it will bring about a condition of society so immeasurably better than the one in which we now have the unhappiness to exist, that as Henry George well says, "the richest man would buy entrance to it cheaply if he gave up all his possessions."

To put the Single Tax into effect in California is the object of The Great Adventure. We propose to do this by amending the State Constitution and we are asking you now to help us put this amendment on the ballot.

G. R. S.

FABLE OF THE AIR TANKS

By W. D. HOFFMAN.

And it came to pass that there were Air-lords, patterned after the manner of the wisest of Air-lords, who was a greater Reader of the Needs of the People. And perceiving that the People must have Oxygen to breathe, this wisest of the Air-lords set up a new System on Earth. So it came about that when his System had been perfected there were great Storage Tanks established at all Vantage Points wherever there were People. And these great Tanks contained the Oxygen that had been scientifically extracted from the Air.

And the Air-lord said: "I will confer a great Boon on the People and employ Labor in building and upkeep of the great Tank System." And many were so employed.

And further the Air-lord said: "I will be generous. I will not profit, but charge the People only a reasonable Interest on my Invest-

ment. I will sell the Oxygen of the Air in my great Tanks to the People.

And the People congratulated themselves that a Philanthropist and a Pillar of the Church was their Employer and Benefactor, one who disdained to extract the Last Penny, but charged only a Fair Interest on his Investment. And Everyone could get Oxygen to breathe at a Reasonable Rate. And those who were Industrious prospered, for they always had plenty of Oxygen in Storage for a Rainy Day.

And these Industrious Ones bought themselves Property in Tanks. Even the Moderately Poor, by a Lifetime of Hard Effort, were enabled to buy Tanks for a Rainy Day for \$2,000 to \$4,000 on the Installment Plan.

And Property was generally respected.

Then it was that Agitators rose up in the Land. They cried out against the Established Order. And they proposed to Confiscate the Tank System, and some of the Most Rabid of the Agitators proposed to destroy all the Property of the great Tank System owned by the Air-lords.

And lo, there was great Wrath. And the Industrious Ones who had bought Tanks for a Rainy Day cried out angrily against the Agitators, even those who had paid only their First Installment, saying:

"See, the Agitators would destroy our Property—we who have worked all our Lives at Hard Labor to buy Tanks for the Rainy Day. Then if we want to sell our Tanks to the People we can't find any Buyers."

And all the Banks said: "Yea, this must not be. It will unsettle Business and force us to close our Doors, for we have loaned Money on the great Tank System."

And the Agitators tried hard to tell the Industrious Ones that if the Tanks were taken down they could get Oxygen freely from the Air. But the Chambers of Commerce and the Ministers protested vehemently and answered that it was Bolshevism in Disguise.

And when the Question came up before the People for a Vote, the Man with a Small Property (in Tanks) held the Balance of Power, and he voted to maintain the Air-lords' Tank System.

But the People who were unable to get Oxygen in Sufficient Quantities to breathe were more and more growing of the Opinion that all was not well with the System.

And each time the Question came up for a Vote the Air-lords grew more and more Anxious and began to Speculate on how soon they would have to hunt the Tall Timber.

Local News

At the last meeting of The Intercollegiate Socialist Society, a resolution was passed recommending the adoption of the Single Tax Amendment at the next election.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
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It was Henry George's influence that secured the section to be written in the constitution of the State of California and quoted in the preamble to our amendment. He was a candidate for membership in the Constitutional Convention of 1879 but was defeated by James A. Reynolds. Reynolds did not know Henry George at the time but afterwards read *Progress and Poverty*. After reading it he deeply regretted that he was elected instead of Henry George and said he would work the rest of his life for Henry George's philosophy.

Wm. M. Hinton gave Reynolds a position that gave him considerable spare time and he used it spreading Henry George's writings and in other ways advancing the cause until the time of his death.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Great Adventurers:

That the Single Taxers of the state have gotten together on this proposal and will present it to the voters in the spirit of Henry George is enough for me. This looks like real progress. I am delighted to hear of it.

I feel sure that the fight in California will be the same old battle without regard to the details of the amendment. The opposition will ring the changes on Single Tax (as they did last year in Missouri) and you will throw down the gauntlet to them as to why they are against it.

(Signed) CARL BRANNIN,
Executive Secretary, National Single Tax League.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC.,
REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,
Of The Great Adventure, published weekly at Los Angeles, Cal., for Oct. 1, 1919:
State of California, County of Los Angeles, ss.

Before me, a notary in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Diana D. Griffes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is one of the editors and the publishers of The Great Adventure, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher, The Great Adventure League, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal. Editor, Diana D. Griffes, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal. Managing Editor, Wm. L. Ross, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal. Business Manager, Lona Ingham Robinson, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

2. That the owners are: The Great Adventure League (not incorporated), 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.; William L. Ross, President, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Lona I. Robinson, First Vice-President, Glendale; Prof. Arthur G. Brodeur, Second Vice-President, Berkeley University, Berkeley, Cal.; W. D. Hoffman, Third Vice-President, Oakland, Cal.; T. A. Robinson, Treasurer, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Diana D. Griffes, Secretary, 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities, are: None.

DIANA D. GRIFFES

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 25th day of September, 1919.

(SEAL)

H. C. LONDON.

(My commission expires May 13, 1923.)

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Vol. 3

OCTOBER 11, 1919

No. 17

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Baying the Moon

By W. D. HOFFMAN.

The Los Angeles Examiner, in a leading editorial, makes the following comment on the vacant lot question:

"Do you own a vacant lot? Do you want to make it increase in value? Do you want to make it a money-maker instead of a money-eater?

BUILD on that lot. That's the answer. The reason why vacant lots in Los Angeles have not increased in value and are not increasing in value is simply and solely because there are too many of them. There is just one way to get rid of a vacant lot. BUILD on it.

Suppose there were a balloon with a lifting capacity to carry one man, and suppose that ten men should all cling to the basket. Would any of them make an ascension? Not much. There would be ten men solidly on the ground. The thing that makes the value of lots go up is to have building active. If you want to have your lot increase in value, BUILD on it. Quit hanging to the other fellow's balloon.

A vacant lot is an eyesore, a detriment to the neighborhood, a bad investment, an impediment to progress. The community loses by it—and the OWNER loses more than the community. Nobody else is ever going to build upon your lot. It is something that YOU must do. Why not do it NOW, when it will do you and will do Los Angeles the most good?"

The reason that it is not done now, nor at any time to the degree that it should be done, is that our laws penalize those who build and fine them as though they were criminals, in exact proportion as they improve.

When the Examiner says that the only way to make the vacant lot

a money-maker is to build, it reverses the case. Every speculator knows that the way to make vacant lots pay is to have the other fellow do the building.

Then the vacant lots jump in value. And the state collects the taxes from the fellow who did the building. Every time he adds a fence or a hedge the tax collector makes careful note of it and fines him accordingly.

Just now there seems to be an awakening on the part of the people generally to the operation of our present laws and they are not so willing to play the landlord's game as they were a few years ago. They are asking why nine of them must surrender the balloon ride in order that one forestaller may make an ascension.

Government penalties on labor products are mounting higher and higher each year. Each builder feels the pinch. Every board that he uses carries penalties innumerable. The board is taxed the minute the woodsman cuts the tree. It is taxed again in the sawmill; in the storage yard; in the wholesaler's hands; in the planing mill; in the retailer's yard; in the building itself.

And the vacant lot escapes.

The remedy of course is simple. The increase in the value of vacant lots, as all land values, is created by the community and should be taken by the community.

That will free builders of the penalties they now suffer, free labor products generally from oppressive laws, reduce the prices of all materials and make homes plentiful.

A TEMPLETON BILL BOARD

By L. D. BECKWITH

At Templeton, California, is a newspaper that has always fought Single Tax in the most vicious manner, calling Single Taxers Bolsheviks, plunderers, robbers, and other names of that sort.

But fate has played a strange prank on this short-sighted defender of a vicious land system.

Directly across from the newspaper office is a vacant lot.

Recently the man who is holding this lot for the editor and the other workers of Templeton to make valuable, leased it to a bill board company. The company has erected a huge bill board directly opposite the editor's window and on it now are advertised the very articles which should be advertised in the Templeton newspaper and would be if we could get Single Tax and do away with the vacant lot graft.

To make it real funny this editor is now complaining bitterly against the bill boards and still fighting Single Tax.

ARDEN SINGLE TAX COLONY

Among our best friends are many of the residents of the unique and artistic little Single Tax Colony founded by Frank Stephens at Arden, Delaware, just twenty miles from Philadelphia. Ground rent in Arden is paid into the public treasury instead of going into private pockets. State and county taxes are paid out of this ground rent fund and the surplus is used for public purposes. Arden is successful, and all Delaware is watching it. The people of Arden have a good thing in the Single Tax. That is the reason they are interested in our campaign and contribute to it.



By HARVEY E. WESTGATE

When someone swipes a million dollars,
Or boosts the price of shirts and collars,
Some gink gets up and madly hollers:
“Let’s start a probe!”

When rents become too high to pay,
And taxes soar most every day,
You’ll hear some geezer rise and say:
“Let’s start a probe!”

So probers come and probers go,
And as they probe they get our dough,
But still they sing on landlord row:
“Let’s start a probe!”

All right, says I, let’s probe for facts,
And shove these landlords off our backs,
And try out good old Single Tax:
“Let’s have a probe!”

A probe will prove that hoarded land
Boosts prices up to beat the band;
But George devised a method grand:
“Let’s have a probe!”

Friends of The Great Adventure League who have sent in pledges for monthly contributions will render us a great service and save us much time and postage by remitting promptly.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

*State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia*

Local News

The Bay District Single Tax Club, Roy R. Waterbury, chairman Program committee, with offices at 617 Underwood Building, San Francisco, holds its regular weekly meetings at the Vegetarian Cafeteria, 714 Market street, Tuesday evenings at 6:30 o'clock. A musical program, with speaking, begins at 8 p. m. Those dining at home are admitted without charge at 7:45 p. m.

The Bay District Single Tax Club was addressed at its regular weekly meeting recently by Mr. F. H. Monroe of Chicago, president of the Henry George Lecture Association.

GREAT ADVENTURE MAIL BAG

Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Ross:

Am very much interested in the new amendment in California appearing in the September 20th issue and congratulate you on getting factions together. I received renewed inspiration from Luke North for which I am devoutly thankful and if I can help just a little the fight here began in California I shall be satisfied.

(Signed) STANLEY SHAFFER.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Single Taxers:

I am very glad that your next amendment is infinitely better than anything which has gone before and I hope that you really have been able to harmonize all the various interests.

(Signed) HARRY H. WILLOCK.

Single Tax Information Bureau. Free literature sent on request. Enclose one or two stamps for postage. 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

Progress and Poverty, Bound.....	\$1.00
Progress and Poverty, Paper.....	.50
Life of Henry George, Bound.....	1.25
A Perplexed Philosopher, Paper.....	.50

For the immediate adoption of the complete Single Tax, count me in for \$....., enclosed herewith; also for \$..... monthly until the State Election, November 5th, 1920.

Name.....

Address.....

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The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

OCTOBER 25, 1919

No. 18

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Something to Think About



INCE the new amendment was published in our issue of September 20th, some slight changes in the wording have been made, but not in the meaning. It has carefully been edited by four of our best lawyers and is approved by the vast majority of our supporters. Both organizations here are working in harmony. Under this amendment the door is open to absorb all the rental value of the land within two years should the people desire to do so by acquiring public utilities by further legislation or otherwise taking it for legitimate public purposes.

To Be Submitted to the Voters in November, 1920.

WHEREAS, since 1879, Section 2 of Article XVII of the Constitution of the State of California has declared that:

"The holding of large tracts of land, uncultivated and unimproved, by individuals or corporations, is against the public interest, and should be discouraged by all means not inconsistent with the rights of private property," and

WHEREAS, the value attaching to land is created by the people and of right belongs to the people, and should be taken in taxes by the community as needed for public purposes,

THEREFORE, to accomplish that end the people of the State of California do enact as follows:

Article XIII of the Constitution of the State of California is hereby amended by adding to it a new section which shall be numbered Section 15, and shall read as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 15. On and after the first day of January, 1921, the following classes of property shall be exempt from taxation:

All machinery, implements, tools, shipping, manufactured articles, merchandise, moneys, credits, stocks, bonds, motor vehicles and other

vehicles, furniture and all other personal property; also planted trees, vines, and crops. Provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the taxation of privately-owned public utilities for the use of the public highways.

As such exemptions become effective, improvements in, on, under, through or over land shall be assessed on the same basis of valuation and rate as that of the preceding year, and all other revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1923, all improvements in, on, under, through or over land shall be exempt from taxation.

As such exemptions become effective all revenues for county, municipal and district purposes shall be levied upon and collected from the value of land.

On and after the first day of January, 1924, Section 14 of Article XIII of this Constitution (providing a system of State revenue) shall become in-operative and stand repealed hereby, and all public revenues shall thereafter be raised by taxation on the value of land exclusive of improvements thereon or therein.

And the legislature is hereby authorized and directed to enact appropriate laws for the apportionment and collection and payment to the State of revenues for state purposes, upon such repeals taking effect.

Nothing in this Section shall delay or prevent the collection of taxes levied before any respective exemption herein described becomes effective.

And provided further, that war-veteran, church and college exemptions are not affected by this Section.

And provided also, that charges for and revenues from publicly owned public utilities shall not be affected hereby.

All Constitutional provisions and laws of the State of California in conflict with this Section, or any part of it, are hereby repealed, such repeals to take effect as the provisions of this amendment become effective as above provided.

BREAK LAND MONOPOLY

By W. D. HOFFMAN.

Notwithstanding that there are so many millions of acres of good productive land held out of use in California, the large land values are in the cities. Taxing land values would of course make farm lands available to the people. But it would do more than that—it would make city sites available to the people. Where there are now billboards and vacant lots there would be available locations for industry. So that

the Single Tax is not concerned so much with the opening up of agricultural land as city land, for monopoly is more firmly entrenched on the latter than the former.

At the same time there is food for thought in the report of the state commission on land colonization, which says:

"California has an immense area of fertile and unpeopled land. Only eleven million acres out of the twenty-eight million acres of farm land are being cultivated. Comparatively few settlers are coming here, and many who came in recent years have left. Costly advertising and still more costly personal solicitations have not served to attract colonists. We have not found a single settler who, bringing with him only the limited capital accepted by state systems in other countries, has been able to pay for his land in the time agreed upon in his contract."

The high price of farm land of course is the cause of so much bankruptcy and tenancy on American farms. At the same time there is no scarcity of good land. Only by attacking the monopoly itself can we get the idle land into use.

When this has been done in the cities also there will be no unemployment and no low wages.

There will be no unemployment because whoever has the desire to work can get access to either a city site or a productive bit of farm land, as he desires. He will not have to pay the earth owner the entire possibilities of the business before he can go to work.

There will be no low wages because no man will work for another for less than he can earn off free land. Henry George shows that when men could go to the beach and pan gold their earnings automatically fixed the minimum wage in the community.

Since then the gold and all other lands have gone into private hands. Now we propose to open up nature's vast storehouse of wealth to all labor on equal terms.

Let's give each human being an even break at this old planet!

AT THE CONVENTION OF A. F. OF L.

On the sixth day of October I played "hooky" from the office and stayed away three days, visiting The State Convention of The American Federation of Labor at Bakersfield. I left by auto stage on Sunday morning, rode through San Fernando Valley, Bouquet Canyon, Antelope Valley, over the Tehachapi Mountains, winding down and around and around until we reached San Joaquin Valley and finally reached Bakersfield. This trip is nothing new to many people but it was new and interesting to me.

Roy R. Waterbury, president of the California State Single Tax League, had arranged for R. E. Chadwick and me to speak before the convention in the interest of our Single Tax Amendment.

Mr. Chadwick joined me early Monday morning. He did splendid

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work in interviewing chairmen of the various committees and in using the printing press for publicity work. He had to return to Los Angeles that night without an opportunity to speak.

I was invited to the platform by the president of the convention on Tuesday morning and after reading the amendment, I made a straight Single Tax speech which was well received. Copies of the amendment embodied in a circular were given to all the delegates. A Single Tax resolution was introduced by one of the delegates but the organization is committed to a graduated land tax—a rather timid proposition at this time.

My persuasive eloquence was wasted on the leaders in so far as getting them to indorse our measure was concerned, but many delegates said they favored the Single Tax and the leaders were not unfriendly to the distribution of Single Tax literature. Indeed some of the leaders said they would vote for the amendment but that they were not in a position to have the convention formally adopt it.

The Federation of Labor is a conservative organization particularly in its leadership. But fundamental ideas are spreading and The American Federation of Labor can not escape them.—W. L. R.

Local News

The Bay District Single Tax Club of San Francisco was addressed by Walter Thomas Mills, Legislative advisor for the Non-Partisan League of North Dakota.

Edmund Norton, the veteran worker in the movement, has addressed twenty-one meetings on the land and labor question during the past three weeks.

Wm. C. de Mille spoke and answered many questions on the Single Tax at a largely attended meeting of the City Club recently.

Mrs. Josie Thorpe Price had a first class article in The Pico Heights Ledger of October 10, on "The Vacant Lot Disease."

Single Tax Information Bureau. Free literature sent on request. Enclose one or two stamps for postage. 203 Tajo Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

Progress and Poverty, Bound	\$1.00
Progress and Poverty, Paper50

If you do not know what the Single Tax is, read
"Progress and Poverty."

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The Great Adventure

NOV 4 - 1919

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Vol. 3

NOVEMBER 1, 1919.

No. 19

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Anti-Single Tax League Planning Active Work

From the L. A. Times, Oct. 18, 1919

During the past week John P. Steele of this city was appointed to the position of managing director of the People's Anti-Single Tax League. He begins his official duties tomorrow, and at once will plan for an active campaign of organization in every county of the State. It is proposed to institute auxiliaries in every city and good-sized town, and to also form county organizations to fight the single-tax fad that continuously bobs up.

On the first of next January Mr. Steele will start initiative petitions in all parts of the State for the purpose of securing a law that will require the signatures of at least 25 per cent. of the voters for Governor at the last election on any petition pertaining to taxation before it will be eligible for consideration.

The Anti-Single Tax League has been instrumental in defeating the single tax proposals for the last eight years.

If you ever had any doubts of our strength in California, the above will dissipate them. A positive Force will invariably arouse a negative force. So we have with us The Anti-Single Tax League. With us we say because the people here are becoming more and more enlightened to the surgical operations being made upon their pocket books by these land grabbers and prevaricators. Their advertisements are now being better understood by those who want homes and garden patches and are kept from their natural rights by the exorbitant prices which are being asked for them.

WOULD WORKING AND SAVING REDUCE THE HIGH COST OF LIVING?

CHAPTER I.

Perhaps the advice most frequently offered today in answer to complaints about the "high cost of living" is that people should work harder, that is, produce more and save more.

Would this advice if generally followed solve the problem, and if increased production alone would do so, why are we admonished to save?

Manifestly, if everyone worked two hours a day longer than he does now, more wealth would be produced and assuming that wealth is divided in the same way as it is at present, wages (the return to Labor) would be increased. The return to Monopoly and Capital would also be increased, and everyone would have more wealth. There would be not only more food, clothing, oil, coal, houses and other things called necessities, but there would be more of the things we usually call luxuries. With every warehouse and store thus filled and the people both individually and collectively richer than ever before, why then are they called upon to *save*?

If their first efforts at saving took the form of doing without luxuries they would refuse to patronize jewelry stores. These stores would soon close and the makers and dealers in jewelry of all kinds would be thrown out of employment. With no demand for jewelry there would be a lessened demand for the precious metals and many miners would be forced to quit work. The same is true of the tobacco industry. Surely people could "save" all that they now spend on tobacco and this would compel all those now engaged in its growth, manufacture and sale to seek some other employment. Without doubt people eat too much. Let the consumption of food stuffs be reduced, say one-third, and think of the enormous "saving" that would take place and how many more persons would be out of jobs.

Theaters, movies and churches are all unnecessary, or if something must be spent on them, cut down the expense one-half and so release many actors and ministers from their arduous occupations. Again, people are over-educated. Nothing shows this more clearly than the advice to "work and save." Shut up schools and universities and refuse to buy newspapers, magazines and books. As everyone knows, there is too much traveling done. People should stay at home and so save carfare and hotel bills. If this were done many thousands of railroad employees could be dispensed with and employees of hotels could be released to become missionaries and carry the gospel of "work and save" to the heathen; and if anyone objects to this on the ground that they would be spending money in travel, let them be silenced with the assertion that missionaries "put money in circulation."

Further instances will occur to our readers showing the effects which would follow the adoption of the Work-and-Save program. In the

next issue of The Great Adventure other phases of the subject will be considered. Don't miss it. Order your copy now, but not from your newsdealer. He won't have it. Send your money and address to this office. You will surely want to know who *does* profit when people "work and save," who is responsible for advice of this kind and how it gets such wide circulation. This will be revealed in our next number. In the meantime keep your eye on the landlord. We don't mean the man who owns your house. We mean the men, individuals and corporations, who own the land of California, the idle acres, the town and city sites, the water sources, the fertile agricultural soil, the oil fields, the mines, the forests, the railroad rights of way, and owning them own you. They are worried these days, and are resorting to every trick and device they can think of to divert your attention from themselves and their activities.

G. R. S.

LAND MONOPOLISTS TAUNT THE PEOPLE

Worth noting is the following Associated Press dispatch:

WASHINGTON, July 25.—George H. Cushing, managing director of The American Wholesale Coal Association, told the House Rules Committee the public would be to blame for the coal famine which the country probably would face next winter. "There is plenty of coal in the ground," he said, and plenty of miners to get it out. But, unless the coal users of the country buy, the coal will not be mined." Mr. Cushing said coal produced before April 1st had been burned, and production since then had fallen short of the yearly demand by at least 125,000,000 tons. Part of this shortage can be made up, he said, if coal orders are placed before the railroads are tied up with movements of crops. After that it will be too late, he added.

Private ownership of land is defended by its advocates with the claim that it is essential to the best use. Mr. Cushing's statement is a confession of the falsity of that claim, at least as far as coal lands are concerned. With plenty of coal in the ground and plenty of miners ready to take it out and the certainty that plenty of people want to use the coal the same as in previous years, the representative of the coal land owners informs us that unless the people buy before they need it none will be supplied them when they do need it. It is high time something was done to impress upon these arrogant owners the fact that such abuse of power cannot be permitted. It should not be left to them to say whether or not miners must starve and consumers freeze. They are in possession of valuable natural resources. If they won't use them they should be forced to let go so that the miners can get busy. The Single Tax will compel them either to make use of these lands themselves or let others do so.

Mr. Cushing is on record as admitting that the Single Tax will have such an effect. In the year 1911 he engaged in a debate with Joseph Fels in the Black Diamond, the official organ of his association. He opposed the Single Tax for the reason that it would stimulate produc-

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tion of coal. He was afraid that there would not be enough left for the use of posterity if this were done. Mr. Fels disposed of that frivolous claim. This year Mr. Cushing makes clear that a stimulant is exactly what the coal industry needs. But he also makes clear that he and the interests he represents have such contempt for the public that he virtually tells consumers and laborers to go hang. If the people were to show a disposition to apply the Single Tax, coal monopolists would show a greater disposition to get coal out of the ground. And we would not be asked to accept as excuse for failure the irrelevant claim that for a few weeks during the fall the railroads must transport crops.

SAMUEL DANZIGER.

GREAT ADVENTURE MAIL BAG

October 10, 1919.

Great Adventure League:

I have been putting in overtime getting together some good data on different aspects of landlordism here in San Francisco and throughout California, and it is so startling that it should become generally known. For instance, after excluding residential lots, I estimate \$60,000,000 of unearned incomes each year in the form of ground rent is going into private pockets here in San Francisco. This is equivalent to \$600 a year, or \$50 a month, that every family in San Francisco is being robbed. These are the facts which must be brought home to the toilers.

(Signed) Roy R. WATERBURY.

Pres. Cal. Single Tax League.

N. B.—Colburn of San Diego writes me "Webster and I presented our proposition at the Labor Temple Tuesday night and the organization unanimously endorsed our proposed amendment and instructed their secretary to wire the endorsement to their delegates at Bakersfield last night, so I suppose our men there will get the solid support of San Diego labor. Isn't that fine?"—Colburn.

FROM METAL TRADES COUNCIL

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

Manager The Great Adventure League:

The fact that Big Business is opposing all efforts to establish the Single Tax is sufficient reason for me to favor it. I feel that if it is sure to be so bad for them as they seem to feel as shown by their opposition, there must be a great deal in it that must be good for the rest of us.

(Signed) W. E. KENT,
Secretary.

Social Problems, Paper50
A Perplexed Philosopher, Paper50

THOMAS A. ROBINSON, Treasurer.

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The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3

NOVEMBER 8, 1919

No. 20

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Would Working and Saving Reduce the High Cost of Living

CHAPTER 2.

IN our issue of last week we showed what the disastrous effects would be on a number of industries if the advice "Work-harder-and-Save-more" were widely practiced; how business stagnation would result, unemployment ensue and widespread suffering follow. But this is not to say that people should not practice thrift and economy or save something; it is to direct attention to the insufficiency of savings to tide over a period of great depression and unemployment, and the futility of the work-and-save advice when offered as a remedy for what is called the high cost of living.

If workingmen for example slaved and saved—and it is chiefly to them that the work-and-save advice is impudently directed—how much would their savings amount to and where would they put them? In bank? With the stoppage of exchange, the cessation of buying and selling, the paralysis of trade, how long would banks survive? They too would fail and the workers' savings would be swept away. Shall he invest them in land or real estate? Even if he did and could turn them at need into cash how long would they last?

Who *would* benefit or profit if the Work-harder-and-Save-more program were followed? We answer: No one. The lessening of consumption, the reduction of demand, the checking of trade would positively injure everybody. It would injure the body politic in the same way that starvation would injure the human body. Even our greatest monopolists, our Coal Barons, our Financiers (sane and frenzied), Dukes of Oil, Princes of Mines, Magnates of Railroads, Lords of Timber, and Counts of whole counties of vacant and unused land—all creatures of Privilege—would suffer, just as leeches and parasites do when their victims weaken and die. Their incomes would be enormously reduced, but as they could live longer on their fat than the worker could on his own lean savings we need waste no sympathy on them.

It would be idle to inquire who is guilty of starting this Slave-and-Save-slogan, for all who have thoughtlessly repeated it are as much to blame

as its author, and after all it is only one of the many dust-raisers that Plutocracy and its hirelings are continually starting. One of the strongest defenses that Privilege employs is the Lie. Destroy one and Privilege instantly hides behind another. We have nailed this one, but Privilege laughs as he thinks how easily public attention has been diverted from him by the hullybaloo raised over such a silly remedy for the High Cost of Living as "work and save."

What then is the remedy for the High Cost of Living?

See our next issue. Order it now. Send us 50c for a year's subscription. And remember what we are trying to do, namely, amend the State Constitution so that taxes can be shifted from you and what you produce to land values. Yes, we are trying to secure the adoption of the Single Tax. If you don't know what the Single Tax is, don't expect to learn it from the newspapers. They don't know what it is, or if they do, they won't tell you. Call at our headquarters. Get our literature. We, Great Adventurers, are seeking your help.—G. R. S.

DO WE WANT HIS "KINGDOM TO COME"?

JOSIE THORPE PRICE

Want, and the *fear* of want, in a world which long ere this, would have been literally flowing with milk and money, but for our vicious system of taxing industry to death, accounts for most of the darkness, the delirium, the insanity, the crimes of today, the world over.

God made this earth for all his children, "for one as well as another," so the Bible tells us. We have entrusted this common gift, the source of everything that makes life worth while to the few, and now the many are desperate. Is it at all surprising? Rather, is it not a matter of surprise that the masses have so long put up with such an injustice?

Can we not retrace our steps and reclaim our birthright? Such a course, only will answer in short order our oft repeated prayer, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

WHY WE MUST SHIVER

By SAMUEL DANZIGER

Each year a different excuse is offered for the coal shortage. Last year the war was the goat. Two years ago it was the railroads. This year another will be found beyond a doubt. Yet all this time the real culprit, private ownership of the natural sources of supply, is allowed to escape without a word of condemnation. The present tendency among the apologists for monopoly is to put the blame on labor. At any rate here is how it was explained by a coal man in the Birmingham, Alabama district who was not talking for publication. I quote from memory:

"We are only working our mines on half time. If we and other operators worked them full time the men would take advantage of the

situation to strike for higher pay. By working half time they cannot lay enough by to afford a strike, and even if they did go out we have a surplus labor supply to fall back on. It is better to reduce the output and get good prices without labor troubles than to have a big output with low prices and labor gobbling all the profits."

If that operator could be induced to give public addresses equally frank and truthful, Single Taxers could take a vacation. He makes clear the fact that the remedy for a coal shortage, for low wages and high prices is a measure that will force coal lands to be put to most productive use. The single tax is a measure that will do it. It is the most practical proposition of the kind. And it will remedy not only the coal shortage but every shortage in things that human labor can furnish. It will increase wages not only in the coal industry but in every industry.

The defense commonly made for private ownership of natural resources is that the owners acting as trustees for the community can be depended on "to serve the public good." As a matter of fact they can only be depended on "to do the public good." That Alabama operator is a typical case.

GREAT ADVENTURE MAIL BAG

Dear Single Taxers:

The Great Adventure as lead by Luke North always appealed to me, because for many years I have seen very clearly that the only possible way to abolish war was to remove the cause of war which is land grabbing for private profit.

(Signed) CAPT. ARMISTEAD RUST,
Captain, U. S. Navy.

Ballard Vale, Mass.

Dear Great Adventurers:

Your new form of amendment is a great improvement. I don't see why there need be so many words, but it practically gets there much better than the older form did. You *ought* to win this year.

(Signed) STEVEN T. BYINGTON.

Denver, Colo.

Dear Great Adventurers:

It is hardly necessary to tell you that all your friends here are very glad to hear the good news from California. I had been hoping and praying that our California friends might unite their forces against the common enemy. Having done so they make California the land of promise—the land of our heart's desire.

(Signed) JOHN B. McGAURAN.

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

**State Headquarters, LOS ANGELES, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905
SAN FRANCISCO, 948 Market, Room 611, Douglas 5690. BERKELEY, 2617 Virginia.**

Dear Mr. Ross:—

Dear Mr. Ross.— I beg to say that I have read your proposed amendment to the California law, and although I have no technical knowledge of your situation, I believe you have covered the objective in a most effective manner, and that you should therefore be successful in what you are attempting, namely, the discouragement and eventual elimination of the destructive practice of holding land out of use in your State.

My friend, Eberhard, of San Francisco calls California the "Promised Land." He evidently speaks "advisedly" and means that the land, etc., is promised to the speculators.

I hope you will change this promise radically.

Wishing you success,

(Signed) C. H. INGERSOLL.

Local News

William L. Ross spoke before the Shelley Club at their last meeting on "The High Cost of Living and the Land Question." During a discussion which followed, Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson introduced a resolution favoring the Single Tax amendment. The resolution stated that the great majority of our returned soldiers do not own a foot of the soil they fought to defend and proposed to throw open the land to the soldiers and the rest of the people by the application of the Single Tax. The amendment was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ross also spoke before a group of the City Planning Association on reducing the high cost of living by reducing rents. Among other recommendations made by this organization is one to remove taxes from buildings and increase them on land values.

"A SINGLE TAXER IS ONE WHO DOES SOMETHING FOR SINGLE TAX"

Dollars to ENACT Single Tax

TO secure the Immediate Adoption of the COMPLETE Single Tax
in California—to make possible the Unconditional Surrender of
the land to the people everywhere

Count me in for \$..... herewith. } Until the State
\$..... monthly. } Election Nov. 5, 1920

The fellowship of regular contributions is better than a lump sum and a long silence.

Name _____

Address

THOMAS A. ROBINSON, Treasurer.

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The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3 NOVEMBER 15, 1919. No. 21

**THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.**

SINCLE TAX—What It Is and Why We Urge It

By HENRY GEORGE

"The Prophet of San Francisco," author of "Progress and Poverty,"
"The Land Question," "Social Problem," etc., etc.

WE propose to banish all taxes save one single tax levied on the value of land, irrespective of the value of the improvements in or on it.

What we propose is not a tax on real estate, for real estate includes improvements. Nor is it a tax on land, for we would not tax all land, but only land having a value irrespective of its improvements, and would tax that in proportion to that value.

Our plan involves the imposition of no new tax, since we already tax land values. We have only to abolish all other taxes, leaving only that which now falls on the value of the bare land, increasing that so as to take as nearly as may be the whole of economic rent, or what is sometimes styled the "unearned increment of land values."

That the value of the land alone would suffice to provide all needed public revenues there is no doubt.

From the Single Tax we may expect these advantages:

1. It would dispense with a whole army of tax gatherers and other officials which present taxes require, and place in the treasury a much larger proportion of what is taken from the people, while by making government simpler and cheaper, it would tend to make it purer. It would get rid of taxes which necessarily promote fraud, perjury, bribery, and corruption, which lead men into temptation, and which tax what the nation can least afford to spare—honesty and conscience. Since land lies out-of-doors and cannot be removed, and its value is the most readily ascertained of all values, the tax to which we would resort can be collected with the minimum of cost and the least strain on public morals.

2. It would enormously increase the production of wealth—

(a) By the removal of the burdens that now weigh upon industry and thrift. The tenant, not the owner, pays the tax on the office building. On all rented property the tax is added to rent. If we tax houses, there will be fewer and poorer houses; if we tax machinery, there will be less machinery; if we tax trade, there will

be less trade; if we tax capital, there will be less capital; if we tax savings, there will be less savings. All taxes therefore that we should abolish are those that repress industry and lessen wealth.

But if we tax land values, there will be no less land.

(b) On the contrary, the taxation of land values has the effect of making land more easily available by industry, since it makes it more difficult for owners of valuable land which they themselves do not care to use to hold it idle for a larger future price. While the abolition of taxes on labor and the products of labor would free the active element of production, the taking of land values by taxation would free the passive element by destroying speculative land values and preventing the holding out of use of land needed for use. If any one will but look around today and see the unused or but half-used land, the idle labor, the unemployed or poorly employed capital, he will get some idea of how enormous would be the production of wealth were all the forces of production free to engage.

(c) The taxation of the processes and products of labor on one hand, and the insufficient taxation of land values on the other, produce an unjust distribution of wealth which is building up in the hands of a few fortunes more monstrous than the world has ever before seen, while the masses of our people are steadily becoming relatively poorer. These taxes necessarily fall on the poor more heavily than on the rich; by increasing prices, they necessitate a larger capital in all businesses, and consequently give an advantage to large capitals; and they give, and in some cases are designed to give, special advantages and monopolies to combinations and trusts. On the other hand, the insufficient taxation of land values enables men to make large fortunes by land speculation and the increase in ground values—fortunes which do not represent any addition by them to the general wealth of the community, but merely the appropriation by some of what the labor of others creates.

This unjust distribution of wealth develops on the one hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too rich, and on the other hand a class idle and wasteful because they are too poor. It deprives men of capital and opportunities which would make them more efficient producers. It thus greatly diminishes production.

(d) The unjust distribution which is giving us the hundred-fold millionaire on the one side and the tramp and pauper on the other, generates thieves, gamblers, and social parasites of all kinds, and requires large expenditure of money and energy in watchmen, policemen, courts, prisons, and other means of defense and repression. It kindles a greed of gain and a worship of wealth, and produces a bitter struggle for existence which fosters drunkenness, increases insanity, and causes men whose energies ought to be devoted to honest production to spend their time and strength in cheating and grabbing from each other. Besides the moral loss, all this involves an enormous economic loss which the Single Tax would save.

(e) The taxes we would abolish fall most heavily on the poorer agricultural districts, and tend to drive population and wealth from them to the great cities. The tax we would increase would destroy that monopoly of land which is the great cause of that distribution of population which is crowding the people too closely together in some places and scattering them too far apart in other places. Families live on top of one another in cities because of the enormous speculative prices at which vacant lots are held. In the country they are scattered too far apart for

social intercourse and convenience, because, instead of each taking what land he can use, every one who can grabs all he can get, in the hope of profiting by its increase of value, and the next man must pass farther on. Thus we have scores of families living under a single roof, and other families living in dugouts on the prairies afar from neighbors—some living too close to each other for moral, mental, or physical health, and others too far separated for the stimulating and refining influences of society. The wastes in health, in mental vigor, and in unnecessary transportation result in great economic losses which the Single Tax would save.

Let us turn to the moral side and consider the question of justice.

The right of property does not rest on human laws; they have often ignored and violated it. It rests on natural laws—that is to say, the law of God. It is clear and absolute, and every violation of it, whether committed by a man or a nation, is a violation of the command, "Thou shalt not steal." The man who catches a fish, grows an apple, raises a calf, builds a house, makes a coat, paints a picture, constructs a machine, has, as to any such thing, an exclusive right of ownership, which carries with it the right to give, to sell or bequeath that thing.

But who made the earth that any man can claim such ownership of it, or any part of it, or the right to give, sell or bequeath it? Since the earth was not made by us, but is only a temporary dwelling place on which one generation of men follow another; since we find ourselves here, are manifestly here with equal permission of the creator, it is manifest that no one can have any exclusive right of ownership in land, and that the rights of all men to land must be equal and inalienable. There must be an exclusive right of possession of land, for the man who uses it must have secure possession of land in order to reap the products of his labor. But his right of possession must be limited by the equal right of all, and should therefore be conditioned on the payment to the community by the possessor of an equivalent for any special valuable privilege thus accorded him.

When we tax houses, crops, money, furniture, capital or wealth in any of its forms, we take from individuals what rightfully belongs to them. We violate the right of property, and in the name of the state commit robbery. But when we tax ground values, we take from individuals what does not belong to them, but belongs to the community, and which cannot be left to individuals without the robbery of the community.

Think what the value of land is. It has no reference to the cost of production, as has the value of houses, horses, ships, clothes, or other things produced by labor, for land is not produced by man, it was created by God. The value of land does not come from the exertion of labor on land, for the value thus produced is a value of improvement. That value attaches to a piece of land means that it is more desirable for use than a like piece of less or no value, and that men are willing to pay a premium for permission to use it. Justice therefore requires that this premium of value shall be taken for the benefit of all in order to secure to all their equal rights.

Consider the difference between the value of a building and the value of land. The value of a building, like the value of goods or of anything properly styled wealth, is produced by individual exertion, and therefore properly belongs to the individual; but the value of land only arises with the growth and improvement of

THE GREAT ADVENTURE IN CALIFORNIA

State Headquarters, Los Angeles, 203 Tajo Bldg., First and Broadway. Main 4905

the community, and therefore properly belongs to the community. It is not because of what its owners have done, but because of the presence of the whole great population, that land in New York is worth millions an acre. This value therefore is the proper fund for defraying the common expenses of the whole population; and it must be taken for public use, under penalty of generating land speculation and monopoly which will bring about artificial scarcity where the Creator has provided in abundance for all whom His providence has called into existence. It is thus a violation of justice to tax labor, or the things produced by labor, and it is also a violation of justice not to tax land values.

These are the fundamental reasons for which we urge the Single Tax, believing it to be the greatest and most fundamental of all reforms. We do not think it will change human nature. That, man can never do; but it will bring about conditions in which human nature can develop what is best, instead of, as now in so many cases, what is worst. It will permit such an enormous production as we can now hardly conceive. It will secure an equitable distribution. It will solve the labor problem and dispel the darkening clouds which are now gathering over the horizon of our civilization. It will make undeserved poverty an unknown thing. It will check the soul-destroying greed of gain. It will enable men to be at least as honest, as true, as considerate, and as high-minded as they would like to be. It will remove temptation to lying, false swearing, bribery and law breaking. It will open to all, even the poorest, the comforts and refinements and opportunities of an advancing civilization. It will thus, so we reverently believe, clear the way for the coming of that kingdom of right and justice, and consequently of abundance and peace and happiness, for which the Master told His disciples to pray and work. It is not that it is a promising invention or cunning device that we look for the Single Tax to do all this; but it is because it involves a conforming of the most important and fundamental adjustments of society to the supreme law of justice, because it involves the basing of the most important of our laws on the principle that we should do to others as we would be done by.

The readers of this article, I may fairly presume, believe, as I believe, that there is a world for us beyond this. The limit of space has prevented me from putting before them more than some hints for thought. Let me present two more:

1. What would be the result in heaven itself if those who got there first instituted private property in the surface of heaven, and parceled it out in absolute ownership among themselves, as we parcel out the surface of the earth?
2. Since we cannot conceive of a heaven in which the equal rights of God's children to their father's bounty is denied, as we now deny them on this earth, what is the duty enjoined on Christians by the daily prayer: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven"?

**"A SINGLE TAXER IS ONE WHO DOES SOMETHING
FOR SINGLE TAX"**

**PLEASE PASS THIS ON WHERE IT WILL
DO THE MOST GOOD.**

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THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

Blessed Be the Food Hoarders

By HARVEY E. WESTGATE

BLESSED be the food hoarders and profiteers, for they have taught us much. They have proved to those who needed proof that when a large portion of the country's supply of sugar, or ham, or cotton, or wool, or anything else, is withheld from the market the price goes up, and we Single Taxers propose to show the voters that when land is withheld from use not only the price of land goes up but the price of everything that the land produces—which is everything—goes up.

There is a certain amount of sugar produced each year. If it is bought by speculators, and hoarded, the price goes to eight cents, ten cents, twelve cents, fifteen cents or more a pound.

There is a certain amount of land in California. Purchased by the land hogs and held out of use, the price soars.

Why? Because people want homes; because people want farms and garden patches; because people want to enjoy the greatest climate in the world.

But the land speculators buy and hold—just as the sugar speculators buy and hold—and up goes the price.

First it was a few dollars an acre; then a hundred dollars; then two hundred, then three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten hundred dollars an acre. Some of it can't be touched today for less than \$5,000 an acre, in certain localities, if in full bearing fruit trees.

Twenty-three million acres of this fertile land in California held out of use, and the price soaring each year.

A million lots in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, San Diego, and other cities and towns—lots that grow up to weeds and tomato cans—and the price runs up to two, three, four and as high as ten thousand dollars.

Two thousand dollars or more for a small patch of ground, say 50 by 125 feet, on which to build a humble little home.

A million idle lots and a million people who would like to, but can't own homes.

A million idle lots or a million happy homes! Which? Ask your corner grocer which he would rather see, vacant lots or homes.

Ask your banker, your clothing merchant, your baker and your butcher the same question. All will say they would prefer to see the homes, for more people mean more business, and they are all making, or trying to make, a living.

The twenty-three million idle acres would be purchased and cultivated if the speculative value were squeezed out. And Single Tax will squeeze it out, don't forget that.

The million idle lots would be purchased and a million homes built in California, if the speculative value were eliminated. And Single Tax will eliminate it, make no mistake.

Imagine the army of large and small farmers it would require to cultivate and manage those thousands of farms.

Imagine the amount of machinery they would need—trucks, cultivators, tractors and everything from garden rakes to threshing machines—if those idle acres were at work.

Think of the work that would await carpenters, and plumbers, and stone and brick masons, if a million homes were built on those million idle lots. Why, the saw and hammer chorus could be heard from Mt. Shasta to San Diego, and business would boom for everyone as it never has boomed before.

Then think of what would be produced on those idle acres—twenty-three million of them. Wheat, oats, corn, oranges, lemons, nuts, vegetables, cattle, sheep, hogs.

Think you there would be an over-production? Not a bit of it, for the population of the state by that time would be so large that home consumption would have doubled, and less favored states and countries would take any surplus we had to offer.

And always remember this: With land at hundred dollars an acre, a man with one thousand dollars can get a ten-acre truck farm, but with land at \$2,000 an acre, he can't afford to buy. He could make money selling potatoes at a dollar a bushel on the hundred-dollar land, whereas he makes little selling potatoes at three or four dollars a bushel on \$2,000-an-acre land. He suffers and so do his customers, the consumers.

Squeeze out the speculative value of land and all land and what it produces will sell according to supply and demand prices, and no one will be robbed or starved.

Squeeze out the speculative value of land and all land and what new homes within a few years—homes instead of weeds and debris-laden lots.

Blessed be the food hoarders, for they have taught us much.

BIRDS THAT WORK AND BIRDS THAT DON'T

There were millions of them. Day after day, all their lives long they dug in the earth for food. They had no time to sing or play, for always they were working, always scratching for food and notwithstanding they found much they were lean and ugly. In comfortable roosts above them were other birds, strong, well-fed, sleek and with beautiful plumage. When a little bird succeeded in finding a choice bit, down would sweep a big bird to take it away from him and so quick, powerful and greedy were the big birds that the little ones were hard put to it to get enough food to live on.

One day a working-bird was overheard asking his companion why they had to work so long and hard to feed the big ones; that the workers secured more than enough to satisfy them all if the big ones would not constantly take it away from them, and why shouldn't the fat ones hustle for themselves. His fellow-workers were shocked and reported to the big ones what the discontented bird had said, whereupon the big ones denounced him as a disturber and demanded that he be killed. This was promptly done and the big ones said "Peace is restored." But from the ashes of the dead bird two other birds arose who asked the same questions and when they were killed four more appeared and this went on until nearly all the workers were asking why, and even the stupid big birds realized that they could not kill them all, for if they did there would be no more workers to supply their wants.

About this time a wise bird appeared who told them all what the trouble was. And what he said was: "So long as you concede the mere claim of the big ones that they own the earth where all the food comes from, conditions can never be different; workers will always be the slaves of the earthowners. The earth is our store-house, the only place from which anyone can get a living. It is a free gift to us—not to some, but to all—and as soon as we deny that anyone may own it or any portion of it and assert that all have equal rights to its use, then and not till then can conditions be improved or any of us become happy. For, until this is done the workers will remain slaves, compelled not only to work for their masters, but to fight for them and to lay down their lives in defense of the very institutions that enable their masters to rob and destroy them. And this is as things are today."

What they will be tomorrow depends on the intelligence of the workers.—G. R. S.

Life of Henry George, Cloth Bound.....	\$1.25
Progress and Poverty, Bound.....	\$1.00
Progress and Poverty, Paper.....	.50
Problem of the Unemployed, Cloth Bound.....	.50

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THE PEOPLE'S ANTI-SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The Anti-Single Tax League has a big job on its hands. It tried to get the legislature to support a law providing that 25 per cent of the voters should sign initiative petitions pertaining to taxation, while 8 per cent may remain a sufficient number on other questions. The governor objected to this proposition, but the Anti-Single Tax League intends to submit an amendment to the voters by initiative petition. The members of this league, who are the protectors and defenders of landlordism, are hard pressed for good reasons in defense of their monopoly. The voters of California will hardly allow the initiative and referendum to be crippled by this audacious, not to say impudent, performance. In plain language their proposition means this: If we are not much opposed to an amendment the people wish to submit to the voters for their approval at the polls, 8 per cent of them may have it placed on the ballot. If we are much opposed to a measure, such as the Single Tax, we can ham-string it by requiring 25 per cent of the voters to sign the initiative petition.

W. L. R.

Local News

Roy R. Waterbury, president of The California Single Tax League, has arranged to give his entire time to working for the amendment. Mr. Waterbury is an able lawyer and enthusiastic worker for the cause. He is collecting valuable information concerning the big rake off landlords are making in San Francisco and other parts of the state.

Mr. Thomas Zant of the Central Labor Council and Prof. Arthur G. Brodeur of the University of California both spoke recently before The Bay State Single Tax Club of San Francisco. The club meets at the Vegetarian Cafeteria every Tuesday evening.

Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson has arranged for six neighborhood meetings to be held at as many different homes in Los Angeles and vicinity. These gatherings are in the interest of the Single Tax Amendment. The following speakers among others have consented to address the meetings: R. E. Chadwick, Walter Gould Lincoln, Dr. Adah H. Patterson, J. H. Ryckman, Lona Ingham Robinson, J. H. McEldowney, Martha Y. Salyer and Wm. L. Ross.

Single Taxers in Los Angeles and vicinity who are interested in promoting these meetings are requested to communicate with Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, Chairman of the Committee, 332 North Maryland Avenue, Glendale, California.

**PLEASE PASS THIS ON WHERE IT WILL
DO THE MOST GOOD.**

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Vol. 3

NOVEMBER 29, 1916

No. 23

**THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.**

An Open Letter to Those Who Care

GHE Single Tax men and women of California are fighting your fight. They are urging the open-minded people of California to vote for the adoption of the complete Single Tax. This program is a call to the disinherited to resume possession of their heritage; it is an open challenge to the beneficiaries of privilege to show why their monopoly should not be abolished; it is a demand that all men shall have equal opportunity in the bounties of Nature; it is the means whereby workers may receive the fruits of their toil, and whereby the benefits of rising wages may not be absorbed by the constantly-mounting cost of living.

The mechanism by which this profound change in our economic system may be made is an initiative petition for an amendment to the Constitution of the State of California whereby the annual value of land shall be taken for public uses, and all other taxes shall be abolished.

In form it is short, terse and concise. In substance it expresses the complete program of Henry George.

Now is the time of times to bring this question before the people. The Great War, so unthinkable in prospect, so crippling to the human and material resources of the civilized world, and so stupid in its motives, has shaken the faith of men in the old order; has stimulated them to seek for causes which if not removed may precipitate another such devastating cataclysm; and in their search men, all men are challenging all institutions however old; however heretofore sacred; and however well-intrenched such institutions may be.

California is the state which offers the best opportunity for the adoption of this fundamental reform.

It has for example the Initiative, Referendum and Recall—the whole mechanism of direct legislation—whereby the desires of a majority may not be defeated by legislatures and courts. Politically the people of California are masters of their own destiny.

The ground for Single Tax already has been broken; the seed was sown in two previous campaigns.

In 1916 the Great Adventure measure to secure to the people a free Earth was favored by more than 31 per cent of the voters. More than

a quarter of a million California citizens then expressed by their ballots their will to have the Single Tax enacted into law.

In 1918 the election took place during the closing days of the war when the popular mind was unwilling to consider any measure that had no bearing on the immediate winning of the war. Further the activities of the Great Adventure during the closing weeks of the campaign were paralyzed by the Flu epidemic. In spite of these adverse influences the measure was favored by more than twenty-five per cent of the voters.

Here in California too, for the first time since Henry George gave to the world his immortal truth, has the conspiracy of silence definitely been broken. A well-financed Anti-Single Tax League by its abuse and misrepresentations is endeavoring to befog the issue and to frighten the people away from their growing conviction that Single Tax is the necessary basis of economic justice.

These opponents not only are wasting their time and their money. They are actually helping our cause.

Californians politically are open-minded. Already they have adopted Woman Suffrage; the Initiative, Referendum and Recall; Direct Primaries; Home Rule for Cities, and many other progressive reforms. As a famous Californian once said, these people have everything but bread and butter. And the Single Tax will give them that.

Now is the time to show the courage of your convictions. The cause needs funds. The initiative petition must be signed by fifty-five thousand registered voters. This is almost twenty thousand names less of a job than was the petition of 1918. The small vote at the last election gave us this chance, because the law demands as signers to initiative petitions only eight per cent of the vote cast for Governor at the latest election.

Then there are the expenses for literature, traveling expenses of lecturers, organizers and speakers; postage, advertising, and all other expenses that are inseparable from a political campaign.

Give then, and give again. Give until it hurts if you believe that the Earth should be free. This is your fight. It is the fight of every man and woman who believe in Justice.

All contributions from ten cents to a thousand dollars per month are welcome.

But help the cause of right; help to inaugurate the reign of Justice; help to save our civilization from the fate of those that have gone before.

A blank appears on page four. The time to do this work is NOW. A prompt response therefore will be doubly effective.

**If you do not know what the Single Tax is, read
"Progress and Poverty."**

HOME OWNING

By L. F. C. GARVIN, Former Governor of Rhode Island.

The statement of Raymond R. Frazier of Seattle that no home owner is a "Red," is substantially correct. His conclusion that there "should be as many home owners as possible," is also logical.

There are other reasons why every family desiring to have a homestead of its own should find it easy to get one. A man fighting for his country is a better soldier if he has a stake in the soil he is defending, and in time of peace he makes a more useful citizen.

Mr. Frazier was addressing the American Bankers' Association in St. Louis, and advised liberality in loans for home building.

The defect in this recommendation, and with other efforts to substitute homes for tenements, is that they do not go to the root of the difficulty. The result in Rhode Island is that three-fourths of the families in the state are tenants, and year by year that proportion is increasing.

The trouble is that law is stronger than exhortation. By law we fine every person who builds. The person who puts up a residence we treat as though he had committed a serious misdemeanor. We fine him, not once as might be done if he had robbed a hen-roost, but every year so long as the building stands.

And not only that, but by foolish and unjust laws we promote speculation in land, keeping the valuable lots suitable for building at a high price and therefore out of reach of most heads of families.

The only remedy is to exempt all buildings from taxation, at the same time increasing the rate upon land values. This would make speculation in land unprofitable and would so reduce the cost of getting a homestead that a permanent building boom would set in wherever the plan was adopted. This has been the effect in the cities of western Canada where a large majority of families are home owners.

CALIFORNIA'S OPPORTUNITY

By W. D. HOFFMAN

California electors next year will have the opportunity of setting up on the western coast of America a beacon light for the world at a time of unprecedented unrest and turmoil.

On the lips of everyone is the industrial problem. The clash of two antithetical forces is even now resounding in many nations. Neither side seems willing to surrender short of civil war.

But there is a way out, a simple, effective solution that the world is hungering for. It is the Henry George program. California next year will have the opportunity to inaugurate the reign of the new political

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economy—an object lesson to the whole country and to other nations now torn with strife and stagnation.

The Single Tax program is fundamental as it is simple. Nature has been bountiful. Only monopoly of the earth's resources gives to the few the power to take from the many. Land (the earth itself) is the greatest of these resources, and all trusts and combines have their roots in these resources. It is proposed to throw open these gifts of nature to all on equal terms by means of a tax on the value of land. Such a tax would make it unprofitable to withhold from use any portion of the earth needed for the welfare of society.

What could be simpler? A child can understand it. The power to tax is the power to destroy. To tax earth monopoly is to destroy it.

There is at hand a simple natural order of society by which justice will be secured to the humblest and the most powerful. Exploitation and poverty will decrease in exact proportion as land values are taken over by the people. The Single Tax if adopted will solve the industrial problem and avert civil war.

Local News

A very successful meeting was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson on the evening of November 15th. Mrs. Robinson presided and introduced Mrs. Martha Y. Salyer and Wm. L. Ross as the principal speakers. An excellent musical program was provided.

About a dozen meetings have been arranged. Those interested in having meetings at their homes should communicate with Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, 332 North Maryland Avenue, Glendale, Cal.

TO secure the Immediate Adoption of the COMPLETE Single Tax in California—to make possible the Unconditional Surrender of the land to the people everywhere

Count me in for \$.....	herewith.	} Until the State \$..... monthly. } Election Nov., 1920
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The fellowship of regular contributions is better than a lump sum and a long silence.

Name
Address

For the immediate adoption of the complete Single Tax, count me in for \$....., enclosed herewith; also for \$..... monthly until the State Election, November, 1920.

Name.....

Address.....

THOMAS A. ROBINSON, Treasurer.

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DECEMBER 6, 1919

No. 24

**THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.**

The Inquisitive Boy

(Reprint)

What place is that, pa?
That is a brickyard, my son.
Whose brickyard is it, pa?
It belongs to me, my son.
Do all these big piles of brick
belong to you?

Yes, my son; every brick of
them.

My! how long did it take you
to make them? Did you make
them all alone by yourself?

No, my son; those men you see
working there make them for me.

Do the men belong to you, pa?

No, my son, those men are free
men. No man can own another.
If he could the other would be a
slave.

What is a slave, pa?

A slave, my son, is a man who
has to work for another all his life
for only his board and clothes.

If a slave gets sick, who pays
for the doctor, pa?

Well, his owner does; he can't
afford to lose his property.

Why do men work so hard, pa?
Do they like it?

Well, no, I don't suppose they
do, but they must work or starve.
Are these men rich, pa?

Not to any great extent, my son.
Do they own any houses, pa?

I rather guess not, my son.

Have they any horses or fine
clothes, and do they go to the sea-
side when it's warm, like we do,
pa?

Well, hardly; it takes them all
their time to work for a living.

What is a living, pa?

Why, a living—well, for them a
living is what they eat and wear.

Isn't that board and clothes, pa?

I suppose it is.

Well, are they any better off
than slaves, pa?

Of course they are, you foolish
boy. Why, they're free; they don't
need to work for me if they don't
like; they can leave whenever they
choose.

And if they leave won't they
have to work, pa?

Yes, of course they will; they
will have to work for some one
else.

And will they get anything more
than a living from him?

No; I suppose not.

Well then,, how are they any
better off than slaves?

Why, they have votes; they are
free men.

If they get sick do you pay for
the doctor, pa?

Catch me! What have I got to do with it? They must pay for their own doctor.

Can you afford to lose one of the men who work for you, pa?

Of course I can; it don't make any difference to me. I can hire another whenever I like.

Then you aren't so particular about them as if they were your slaves, are you, pa?

No, I suppose not.

Then how is it better for them to be free?

Oh, don't ask foolish questions, boy.

What are bricks made of, pa? Of clay, my son.

Do the bricks belong to the men when they make them, pa?

No, my son, they belong to me. Why, when the men make them?

Because the clay is mine.

Did you make it, pa?

No; God made it, my son.

Did He make it for you, pa?

No. I bought it.

Bought it from God?

No, from a man.

Did the man buy it from God?

No, of course not; he bought it from another man, I suppose.

Did the first man it was bought from buy it from God?

No, I suppose not.

How did he get it? How was it his more than anybody else's?

Oh, I don't know; I suppose he just claimed it.

Then, if these men should claim it now, would it be theirs?

Oh, bother, don't be asking such foolish questions.

If you didn't own the brickyard

and the clay, how would you make your living?

Oh, I don't know. I suppose I would have to work.

Would you make bricks, pa?

Maybe I would.

How would you like to make bricks for only your board and clothes, and let the man who claimed the brickyard have everything else?

Nobody'd care how I liked it. Poor people must work for their living.

If these men had brickyards of their own would they work for you, pa?

Not likely; they'd work for themselves probably.

Isn't it lucky that that man claimed this land first and that you bought it?

Why?

If he hadn't, maybe somebody else would have claimed it, and then maybe one of these men would own it now, and then—you'd have to work for him for your board and clothes.

Maybe. You ought to be thankful to Providence for his goodness to you in giving you a father who can support you without working.

Should these men's little boys be thankful to Providence, too, pa?

Well, I suppose they should.

What for, pa?

Oh, because their pas have steady work.

Is steady work a good thing, pa?

Of course it is, my son.

Then why don't you work, pa? Nobody could keep you from making bricks, could they?

No. I don't want to keep a man out of a job. If I worked there wouldn't be a job for another man.

That's kind of you, pa. Do you think if you was to wheel that man's barrow while he rested he'd get mad about it?

Oh, pshaw! gentlemen don't wheel barrows.

What's gentlemen, pa?

Why gentlemen — men who don't need to work — the upper class.

I thought there wasn't any upper classes in this country. I heard a man say all men were equal.

The man who said it was a Socialist or Anarchist, or something; or maybe it was election time and he was trying to catch votes.

Say, pa, my Sunday school teacher says we are all God's children. Is she a Socialist or Anarchist, or is she trying to catch votes?

Oh, no, that's the right thing to say in Sunday school and churches.

Well, pa, honest now; are these men God's children just as much as we are?

Why, yes, my son; to be sure they are.

Say, pa, do you remember when you bought that dozen allies for

for brother Jim and me, and I grabbed them all and made Jim give me his top before I'd let him play with them, and you called me a greedy little hog and gave me a licking?

Yes, my son; I remember.

Well, do you think you did right?

Certainly, my son; a parent does right to correct his children and keep them from acquiring bad principles. I bought the marbles for you both. Jim had as much right to them as you.

Well, pa, if those men are God's children just as much as you, then you and they are brothers, and if you make them give you nearly all the bricks they make for allowing them the use of the clay which God made, isn't that the same as me making Jim give me his top for a chance to play with the marbles?

Oh, bother; don't ask such stupid questions.

Say, pa, do you think God thinks you a greedy little hog, and that He will punish you for grabbing that clay?

Oh, don't talk so much. Say, ma, put this child to bed; he makes me tired.

Land is the superficies of the globe—that bottom of the ocean of air to which our physical construction confines us. It is our only possible standing-place, our only possible workshop, the only reservoir from which we can draw material for the supply of our needs. Considering land in its narrow sense, as distinguished from water and air, it is still the element necessary to our use of the other elements. Without land man could not even avail himself of the light and heat of the sun or utilize the forces that pulse through matter. And whatever be his essence, man, in his physical constitution, is but a changing form of matter, a passing mode of motion, constantly drawn from nature's reservoirs and

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as constantly returning to them again. In physical structure and powers he is related to land as the fountain-jet is related to the stream, or the flame of a gas-burner to the gas that feeds it.

Hence, let other conditions be what they may, the man who, if he lives and works at all, must live and work on land belonging to another, is necessarily a slave or a pauper. . . . Property in land is as indefensible as property in man. It is so absurdly impolite, so outrageously unjust, so flagrantly subversive of the true right of property, that it can only be instituted by force and maintained by confounding in the popular mind the distinction between property in land and property in things that are the result of labor. Once that distinction is made clear and private property in land is doomed.—Henry George.

SPENDTHRIFT CALIFORNIANS

By SAMUEL DANZIGER

Those who say that "work and save" is the remedy for the high cost of living are not so far wrong as they seem to be. But in order to work properly the earth must be opened to all who want to work. As to saving now is the time to begin. As an example of sinful extravagance indulged in by the workers of California just look at the enormous amounts squandered every year in ground rents to private owners, supplemented by needless taxes on labor and its products. There is no excuse for this waste. California voters have had the opportunity twice to put an end to it and have refused each time. They could have saved all that they pay in taxes by voting for the Great Adventure, have paid for all the benefits of government by using the money wasted on private landowners, and have received the wages they earn but never get. But they preferred to continue giving wealth away to nonproducers and getting nothing in return. They are still doing so. The high cost of living is a natural result of the practice of the many contributing their earnings that a few may defray the "cost of high living." The first important step toward substituting thrift for extravagance is to vote for the Single Tax without any ifs, buts or other limitations.

Local News

Single Tax articles by the famous political writer, Edward H. Hamilton, appeared in the San Francisco Examiner on November 18th and 22nd.

W. L. Ross spoke on the Henry George theory before the Maintenance and Ways union at the Labor Temple, Los Angeles, November 22. Mr. Ross spoke also before the Hilltop Club on the Single Tax on the 26th and 29th.

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The Great Adventure

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Vol. 3 DECEMBER 13, 1919 No. 25

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

THE IMPUDENCE OF OUR OPPONENTS

By G. R. S.



HE Anti-Single Tax League has appealed to the public for funds to carry on its work against the adoption of the Single Tax in California.

Inasmuch as the landowners of California—the owners of city sites, oil, coal, mineral lands, agricultural tracts and water resources—would willingly pay if need be the entire rent of “their” lands for a year \$500,000,000, and then some, to prevent the restoration of the land to the

people of California, an appeal *to* the people for financial help that will enable them (the landowners) to retain the privilege of levying toll *on* the people, is a piece of impudence only paralleled by their plea in former campaigns for money for the same purpose.

Will their “war chest” be filled by the contributions of the workers? by the pittances of the landless? by money extracted from those who earn it? We answer, to some extent, yes. Many of their dupes will give willingly, while many workers will be forced, intimidated and coerced into giving some portion of their wages, but contributions from these sources will cut only an insignificant figure in the income of the Antis who will depend as heretofore on the very much larger contributions of the Monopolists. Even if the Anti-Single Tax League got nothing by its appeal to the public, you may be sure it would still make the appeal. The bluff is too good a one to be neglected.

Think of it! The 3% who own 90% of the natural resources of California are asking the 97% to help them maintain their stranglehold upon the wealth producers of the State! Can you beat it?

THE UNDERLYING QUESTION

By WILLIAM MARION REEDY; from his magazine, "The Mirror."

Every spell-binder at every banquet brings down the house, these evenings, when he launches the proposition, "What this country and the world at large is most in need of is increased production." But how get it? That is a question they don't answer, save by saying that "everybody should get to work."

But how is everybody to get to work?

The way to get everybody to work is to get the land into use. The land is largely locked-up. It can be taxed into use. At the same time all taxes now levied upon production in every form should be abolished. That would start up all the mills and factories and promote the growing of greater crops. It would keep wages up and prices at the supply-and-demand level. The taxation of land values to the full extent of the economic rent would strike at the profiteering that bases all other profiteering. The landed interest is the one great obstacle in the way of industrial pacification. Set the land free and there will be so many jobs looking for men that there will be no necessity for union labor to keep the wages up and production down. All conferences that dodge the land question as a solution of the capital-and-labor question are and will be failures. All the elaborate proposals for an industrial peace that we have been regaled with recently are absurd to one who understands the land question. Untax everything but land value and tax that so that there shall be left no rent rake-off for the "owner" and there will be no need longer to dread great strikes and lock-outs. The greatest continuing lock-out in the world is the lock-out of labor from land.

Some one ought to have put this doctrine before the excruciatingly futilitarian industrial conference that marched up the hill and down again in stately "dubbery" last month in Washington. Such a conference couldn't but fail, for there will be no industrial peace under any arrangement or set of resolutions that leaves one element of the people in control of one of the two factors in production—the land. The other factor is labor, but lock up the land so that labor cannot get to work on it and you have the most perfect arrangement for limitation of production and wage depression. Gary dead-locked the conference. We think of Gary as a manufacturer, but his power is landlord power—the power of untaxed natural resources in the Steel Trust's possession, but held out of use to maintain prices and keep down wages—yes, even war-time wages as compared with war-time profits. The landlord influence drove labor out of the conference by its dog-in-the-manger advantage. "We won't arbitrate. We control the jobs. They are to be had on our terms or not at all." All the follies of Labor count for nothing as against the iniquity of monopoly of natural resources. And according to the newspaper record of conference proceedings, no one said a word on this aspect of the situation under discussion, thus reducing the program to—bunk.

Land-lorded Americanism

By H. W. NOREN

Conservative folk are fond of referring to the Constitution. They think it safeguards our freedom. But man's freedom is rooted in the soil and the Constitution says nothing about free land, the only guarantee of freedom.

To buy land for a price is to buy life for a price. To him who has not this price the Constitution is a useless and meaningless document.

To till the soil or build a home without paying tribute to anyone for using the earth, is the essence of freedom. Therein consists American independence. To the extent that free land has disappeared independence has disappeared.

One-half of the American people are tenants in their own country. From month to month they buy from some fellowman the right to remain at home. To this extent is a tenant a slave, that he must buy the "right" to remain at home. About one-half of the American people do it.

We have it on good authority that no people can remain half free and half slave.

The Great Adventure Single Tax Amendment will set all the people of California free. Support it!

TAXES—PRICES AND WAGES

By GEORGE CARTWRIGHT

Each reader may easily prove for himself or herself that the Single Tax, i.e., taking public property, ground rent, for public uses, will lower prices and permanently raise wages.

PRICES

Each tax levied upon buildings, machinery or labor product must be added to the sale price or the manufacturer, wholesaler and retailer would lose money. Therefore, the more taxes on labor products the higher the prices of staple articles.

The condition is made worse by the fact that each \$100 of such tax is just that much landholders do not have to pay. We get 4% for money in the bank and pay 6% when we borrow. The average rate is 5%. To the landholder relieved of \$100 a year, by cowardly taxes hidden in prices, this relief is as good as an added sale value of \$2000 to his land, because it takes \$2000 at 5% to make a return of \$100 a year. In other words, each \$100 of tax relief given landholders adds \$2000 to the debt the landless must shoulder for a place to put a home or a shop. No one expects cheap butter, eggs or bacon from land held at from \$400 to \$1000 an acre.

Moving in the other direction; taking taxes off goods and the collec-

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tion of ground-rent only as public revenue means we will get both land and land products or staple goods cheaper.

WAGES

The proposition simply is that, "The higher the land value tax the higher the wages. Proof—The higher the land value tax the less profit in holding land unused. The less profit in holding land unused the more agricultural, mineral, factory and home site lands will come into use. The more land of all kinds brought into use the more men needed. The more men needed the less job competition. The less job competition the higher the wages. Therefore, the higher the land value tax the higher the wages and lower the prices of every article of daily need."

The cowardly hiding of taxes in public service rates and prices means also that higher prices reduce sales. Reduced sales mean fewer workers needed, increased competition and lower wages. The rule is that men begin going out when orders stop coming in.

A tax on land values is of all taxes that which best fulfills every requirement of a perfect tax. As land cannot be hidden nor carried off, a tax on land values can be assessed with more certainty and can be collected with greater ease and less expense than any other tax, while it does not in the slightest degree check production or lessen its incentive. It is, in fact, a tax only in form, being in nature a rent—a taking for the use of the community of a value that arises not from individual exertion but from the growth of the community. For it is not anything that the individual owner or user does that gives value to land. The value that he creates is a value that attaches to improvements. This, being the result of individual exertion, properly belongs to the individual and cannot be taxed without lessening the incentive to production. But the value that attaches to land itself is a value arising from the growth of the community and increasing with social growth. It, therefore properly belongs to the community by reason of the equal right of all to the use of land and can be taken to the last penny without in the slightest degree lessening the incentive to production.

—Henry George.

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VOL. 3

DECEMBER 20, 1919

No. 26

**THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
 ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.**

A Message to Single Taxers Regarding The California Single Tax Movement



FTER much earnest effort practically all of the various factions of Single Taxers and Land Reformers, and particularly The Great Adventure League and California Single Tax League (embracing the Los Angeles Single Tax League, the San Diego Single Tax League and the Bay District Single Tax Club) have come to an agreement on the kind of measure to be presented to the voters of California.

This agreement is the result of many conferences, and an unswerving determination on the part of those interested to bring about unity of action, and each group gladly pays tribute to the other for its willingness to give full consideration to its views. Naturally such a measure embodies mutual readjustments. Some will hold the bill is too conservative, others too radical, but the guiding principle in its formation was to adopt a progressive measure sufficiently fundamental to meet the economic needs of the hour, and which at the same time would—when properly presented and understood—be convincing to the voters. Our attorneys believe it is legally sound and we believe it is clear and convincing.

For many reasons, which Single Taxers outside the state might not appreciate as thoroughly as those who have been actively engaged here in previous campaigns, it has been thought best for The Great Adventure League and the California Single Tax League to maintain their separate organizations. Each has an influence and a standing with different groups and types. Friction and duplications of effort will be avoided

to the fullest extent and a determination to secure a majority of votes for the measure will be the only aim of all.

Securing signatures to place the measure on the ballot—as well as the campaign after that—means the expenditure of considerable money, and funds will be required beyond the ability of California Single Taxers to supply. This great advance in the direction of our ultimate aim can be secured if money for an aggressive campaign can be obtained. The Privileged Interests of the state are well organized and will have an unlimited campaign fund at their disposal to defeat such an attack on their privileges but we believe that we can win in spite of this if our united efforts are backed up by the contributions of those who are with us in spirit.

Those who desire to contribute may remit as they prefer either to The Great Adventure League or the California Single Tax League. Remittances to The Great Adventure League should be sent to 203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles, California, T. A. Robinson, Treasurer; and remittances to the Single Tax League to R. E. Chadwick, Treasurer, American Bank Building, Los Angeles, California.

The above statement was approved and signed by prominent members of the different organizations as follows:

THE GREAT ADVENTURE LEAGUE

Wm. L. Ross, Pres.

J. H. Ryckman,
Lona Ingham Robinson,

W. D. Hoffman,
Prof. Arthur G. Brodeur,
Diana D. Griffes.

THE SAN DIEGO SINGLE TAX SOCIETY

Jas. P. Cadman, Pres.
C. R. Colburn,
Grant M. Webster,

Elsie Jewett Webster,
Howard C. Dunham.

THE CALIFORNIA SINGLE TAX LEAGUE

Roy R. Waterbury, Pres.
Dr. H. F. Dessau,
R. E. Chadwick,
Anna George de Mille,

William C. de Mille,
D. Woodhead,
Palmyra Pressly,
H. W. McFarlane.

As stated in the foregoing letter both state organizations will be continued. We believe more workers and contributors can be secured and kept interested in this way than with only one organization. It has been learned by experience that every live organization can enlist some in the work who can not so well be reached by other organizations.

It is the purpose to have a small advisory or consulting committee composed of members of each organization to safeguard the work against duplication. In this way it is expected to get a large working force in action to present a solid front against land monopoly in this state.

Every member of both these leagues should try to get new members and every member should be encouraged to take an active part in the work. The quiet hand-to-hand work performed by some is just as im-

portant as any other kind. Talk to your neighbors! Hand them literature to read! Start neighborhood meetings! Write letters to friends and enclose something to read on the land question! Give all the money you can spare! All these things help. If every Single Taxer in California will do something for the cause the land question will be discussed all over the state. With a full and fair discussion of the subject we can win.

BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS

By G. R. S.

No voice from heaven or elsewhere is needed to inform us when we see this sign of the kind of pickpockets we should beware of. The most innocent, the most trustful, the most childlike among us is at once put on guard as to the money he may be carrying on his person. It does not occur to him that there are pickpockets and pickpockets. He knows but one kind, namely, the petty criminal who practices an illegal method of acquiring another's wealth. He has, possibly, heard of the pickpocket who practices a legal method, but has never seen one to know him, and is so doubtful of his existence that he often denies that there is such a person.

Yet, the loss from depredations committed by the petty criminal, the common thief, the highway robber, the burglar and other violators of the criminal law is as dust in the balance when compared to the constant and never-ending drain which is made by strictly legal methods on the pockets of wealth producers. To mention one eminently legal manner of getting money from those who earn it, and, like the common thief giving nothing in exchange for it, consider, oh innocent citizen, the way of the landlord and be wise. All of our laws favor and sustain the ownership of land.

Get yourself a piece of land and you may treat it in one of three ways:

1. Use it yourself.
2. Permit another to use it.
3. Hold it idle.

Not always in every individual instance, but depending on its size, location or value, will the mere ownership of what is then called "your" land yield you an income without any exertion on your part; provide you a living without your having to work for it; or enable you to live on the labor of, and at the expense of others exactly as might a successful thief. In the lottery of land speculation you may draw a gold bearing piece, an oil or coal producing spot, a fertile farm, a Broadway business site, or a tract of timber. Others have done so, and with the tendency of land ownership to concentrate in a few hands you may in time become one of the 3% who own 90% of all the land of California.

Very respectable, highly honored and all-powerful is this class today.

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But look out! Like certain legalized businesses of the past—chattel slavery and blackmail for example—the business of gambling in land is now being questioned. We, Single Taxers, are openly challenging it, and are serving notice on all ground-hogs, land-grabbers, and speculators that as soon as possible we propose to change the laws that enable landowners to reap where they have not sown; to obtain wealth without working for it; to live on the labor of others and in so doing absorb the wages of workers.

In this campaign we need your help, regardless of whether you are a landowner or not. You are invited to call or write for information.

AT IT AGAIN

The Los Angeles Times of Sunday, December 7th gave a column account of the coming Single Tax campaign to be carried on for the enactment of the new amendment at the next election. As usual the statement in the Times was not all true. The Times has been correctly informed but like the Anti Single Tax League it persists in repeating the falsehood that a very large fund left by a certain manufacturer is being drawn upon for the support of our work. The fund referred to has not provided any money for California Single Tax work for several years. If this fund were still available we should be proud to admit it.

A statement by the Times that is correct is that rents and the high cost of building and building materials will be emphasized during the campaign. It also was correct in stating that we attribute these high prices to undeserved profits in land. The Single Tax would kill land profiteering. It would reduce the price of building lots and all other land, reduce rents and the cost of building; reduce the cost of food, clothing and other things, and make plenty of jobs at high wages.

W. L. R.

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Vol. 3

DECEMBER 27, 1919

No. 27

THE OBJECT OF THIS PUBLICATION IS TO SECURE A FREE EARTH BY
ABOLISHING TAXES AND TAKING GROUND RENT FOR PUBLIC USES.

ARE YOU A SEA DOVE?



N the western coast of Ireland, gulls are called sea doves, which name when applied in picturesque Irish fashion to a person, carries with it the implication that he is a gull, or one easily gulled—a gullible or credulous person.

It is to be feared that some of these gullible persons have escaped to the United States, if we may so infer from the number of things now being told them that are not so and their naive acceptance of them as true. For instance, the statement is being widely circulated—and what is worse, actually believed—that "good times" always accompany or follow a war, and in support of this tale of an idiot the industrial record of the past three years, the demand for workers, the amount of their products, high prices and the nominal and relatively high rate of wages are gravely cited as proof that "our" widespread and abounding prosperity is due to the world war. Those who make this claim say nothing about the *number* of lives that must be sacrificed and the *amount* of wealth which must be destroyed by war before prosperity can be said to follow it. They would probably admit, too, that a few

ANNUAL MEETING

The yearly meeting of the Great Adventure League,
will be held at the State Headquarters

203 Tajo Building, Los Angeles, Cal. at 7:30 p. m.

Tuesday, January 6th, 1920

Reports of the work for the past year will be made by the
President, first Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.

All members and those who wish to become members
are requested to be present.

ANNUAL DUES \$1.00 PAYABLE IN ADVANCE

lives destroyed and a few millions of wealth wiped out would not materially affect conditions; also that the annihilation of all lives and all wealth, including their own, would be an irreparable disaster, but somewhere in between great prosperity results—"anyway," they say, "good times follow war."

The claim is ridiculous and preposterous. Nothing could be more absurd, no reasoning more superficial, no tracing of effect to cause more erroneous, no conclusion more at variance with facts. The truth is that the prosperity of a people depends wholly upon their treatment of the land they live on. Given a free earth—a land free from the exactions which the law permits landowners to levy on production—and the occupiers of that land will enjoy never-ending prosperity. Reduce the same land to individual ownership, let one or more of its inhabitants own the land, and poverty and destitution will be the permanent condition of the people, varied only as a war offers opportunity to some few to profit at the expense of many.

"Why," it may well be asked, "should anyone circulate such a monstrous lie as that war brings prosperity? What possible interest can there be in persuading people to believe it?" We answer: One reason why it is so actively propagated is that it covers up and hides the truth. Landlords are not lacking in cunning nor are they so ignorant as not to know the source and fountain-head of their power. They may or may not believe the absurd notion that prosperity is due to war, but we can be certain they will encourage the widespread belief of that notion so long as it will serve to divert attention from the institution of landlordism by which they profit and by which the people are impoverished.

Of course, you, intelligent reader, are not a sea dove. None of our readers are. But some of your acquaintances may be. If so, you will confer a benefit upon them by sending them a marked copy of this paper. You (and they) should know that this little publication is the only one in the state engaged exclusively in exposing the landlord's game. You should also know that the newspaper press belongs to or is in the pay of the landed interests, hired and kept to raise a dust, and to devise schemes, and manufacture scapegoats and bogies that will divert attention from their masters. You should know, too, that our further purpose is to change the laws which enable landowners to thrive at the expense of workers and as a step in that direction we are going to submit an amendment to the constitution to be voted upon next November, which, if adopted, will "make it apparent to the meanest intelligence" that war instead of bringing prosperity, brings nothing but loss, suffering and misery, and that permanent prosperity for all can only be secured by getting the landlords off our backs. To this laudable end we ask your assistance. Subscribe to the Great Adventure. Read it regularly. Call attention to it. Pass it along.—G. R. S.

"CHECKS ON INDUSTRY"

Under the above heading the Los Angeles Times calls attention to some profiteering in land which if multiplied tens of thousands of times would give some idea of what is going on all over the country. Read this from the Los Angeles Times, Dec. 14, 1919:

"To encourage the establishment of legitimate industries in Los Angeles is one of the big subjects now engrossing the Chamber of Commerce, but from complaints made to the Industrial Committee of that organization from persons seeking factory sites it would appear that co-operation from certain property owners is lacking. These complaints say that acreage in certain outlying industrial sections, not suitable for any other purpose, has recently been boosted from \$3000 to \$4000 an acre and in one instance from \$4000 to \$6000, the raises being announced while sale negotiations were in progress.

It is hardly necessary to say that the Chamber of Commerce deplores this practice, nor is it one that commends itself to those hopeful of seeing Los Angeles go ahead industrially. No one questions the right of a land owner to ask what he pleases for his property—though when a situation of this sort is analyzed it becomes clear that one of the surest ways of discouraging new industries is to make them bear the exactions of some narrow-visioned property owner's greed. Los Angeles should remember that the race for new industries is keen on the Pacific Coast, and that those cities which extend real interest and co-operation are the ones most likely to get them."

Why do The Times, the Chamber of Commerce and others complain about land owners getting all they can for what the law admits is theirs? If The Times and the Chamber of Commerce wish to stop this check on industry they ought to support the Single Tax. Why don't they? Because the owners of The Times and most of the members of the Chamber of Commerce are interested in land profiteering themselves. The Times knows, or at least ought to know, as well as we do, that nothing would stop the checking of industry like a heavy tax on the value of land and the removing of taxes from industry.

No taxes on buildings and a heavy tax on land values would compel the dogs in the manger to use the land to make it profitable. Otherwise they would have to abandon it to someone who would use it.—W. L. R.

INDUSTRIAL JUSTICE

By LUCIUS F. C. GARVIN, former Governor of Rhode Island.

Dating especially from our Civil War, Congress and the state legislatures enacted legislation conferring vast monopolies upon corporations controlled by a few men. In the '60's, exercising the power of eminent domain, Congress gave away to the Pacific railroads about 150,000,000

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acres of land, exceeding in territory all of New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

Before and since that period, as any part of the earth within the borders of the United States became valuable, it was conferred by law upon some corporation or individual. In this way the mineral lands—coal, iron, copper, oil—have been alienated from the people and converted into monopolies. Now that the natural water courses can supply electric power throughout the country they too have been given away. The same is true of farming lands, of city lots, and indeed of almost all the natural resources in which our country abounds.

It is exceedingly fortunate that, whereas monopolies great and small have been created by law, they can be abolished without doing injustice to their possessors. Only in exceptional cases will it be necessary to interfere with any title deeds. All that is needed is for legislative bodies to avail themselves of that power essential to and inherent in all governments—the deriving of public revenue. By means of a very simple change in the tax laws everything can be made cheaper and industrial war can be ended.

LOCAL NEWS

At a dinner given in his honor recently at the City Club in Los Angeles, Roy R. Waterbury, of San Francisco, explained that the word "radical" is not a good name to apply to all progressive thinkers. He said that the word "revolutionist" would better express what most of those have in mind who use the word radical. Radical means going to the root of things.

Our best thinkers believe it is not only possible but necessary to have a radical change to prevent disaster. They believe that this can be done by enacting laws in harmony with the truths set forth in the Declaration of Independence. If this is done land monopoly and other privilege will have no place in this country.

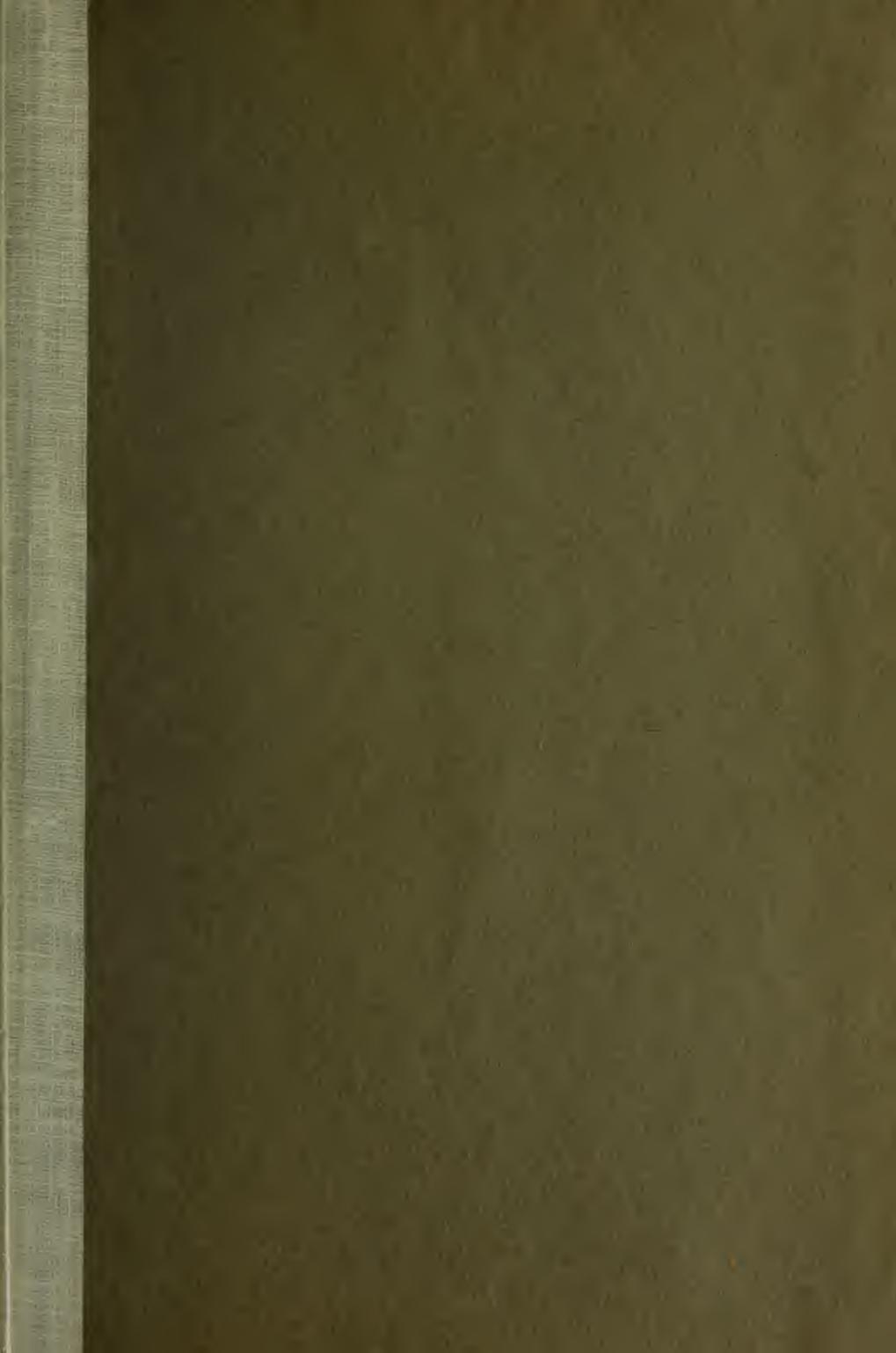
Neighborhood meetings were held recently at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Merrick at Glendale, and of George Downing in Los Angeles. Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, J. H. McElowney, R. E. Chadwick and Wm. L. Ross spoke at these meetings.

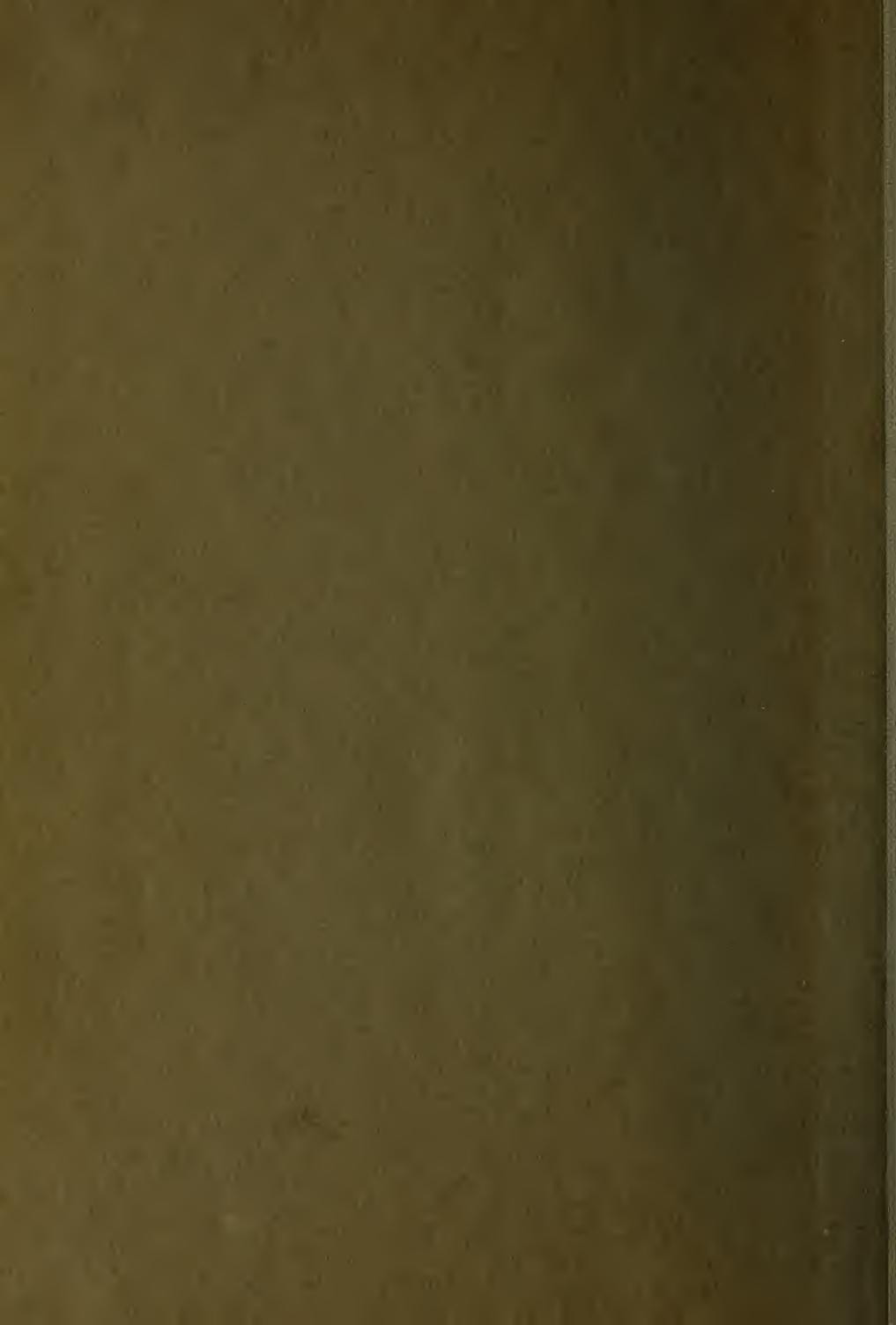
Those willing to help by arranging for home meetings should communicate with Mrs. Lona Ingham Robinson, 332 N. Maryland avenue, Glendale, Cal.

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